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Grading The State Report Card: Experts, Policy Makers Weigh In On How Ohio Assesses K-12 Education

From confusion and frustration to hopefulness and enlightenment, the responses to state report card grades released this month have run the gamut.

Schools and parents around the state have largely dismissed the rankings, which have dropped significantly since new standards were put in place a few years ago. Many have publicly criticized the grades, saying they're not rooted in reliable methods or just plain don't make sense.

A handful of education researchers and stakeholder groups, meanwhile, have released reports that rely on the report card data and tout its value in tracking trends. The analyses compare charter and traditional schools and gauge, among other things, how disadvantaged students are stacking up to their more privileged peers.

But, like them or not, report cards are here to stay. New federal K-12 laws continue to require states to assess students and schools as well as publish annual ratings.

So how then do policymakers and the K-12 community put an end to the report card frenzy that's become an annual occurrence since the state upped learning standards and moved to an A-F grading scale?

For some, the answer is to change how the bevy of school and testing data is presented.

Push For Change: Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said he plans to introduce legislation and bring together a stakeholder group to overhaul report cards so that they no longer grade districts, but instead simply present information.

He said the goal is to fairly provide details of how schools are doing at educating students and quiet public distrust surrounding the current grading system.

"There seems to be an emerging consensus among superintendents and school boards of education and I think legislators are picking this up from the community and parents and from their own experience that report cards have been too volatile," Rep. Duffey said.

More than a dozen other states have instituted an A-F grading scale over the last few years. Like Ohio, many have put off handing out one overall grade to each district in an effort to ease into the change.

However, a handful may never get to that point in their reporting because of backlash to the grades. West Virginia, Alabama and Texas are just a few states debating how to move forward, according to reports.

Rep. Duffey said the public outcry in Ohio is already loud enough to require change, proving that parents and students think their schools are doing better than the report cards reflect.

Many districts, including wealthy suburban districts that were previously accustomed to getting As, have received Fs in a handful of categories over the past two years despite overall scores improving this year. Urban districts that have retooled their entire curricula and cultures say their progress isn't translating to higher report card scores.

"Parents are by and large siding with their school districts over the state, which means the state report card does not have the public's trust," he said. "When it doesn't have the public's trust, it fails to have value as a tool for the state."

The progress measure of the report card is the most-often challenged of the six graded components.

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell), who chairs the House Education Committee, said its calculation needs changed because it is a zero-sum ranking, meaning districts can only score better each year if they're making more progress in relation to the progress other schools have made.

For example, students at Olentangy Local Schools saw growth on average, but their progress component score was an F because there wasn't as much growth as experienced by students at Rocky River City Schools, which received an A, he said.

"If everybody else is doing OK, then they can fall off and I'm not really sure that that's what we should do," Rep. Brenner said.

"I think we need to make sure that we're giving the data to the schools and districts so they understand what they need to do to improve the districts if they're capable," and the current grading formula doesn't always allow that, he said.

Data analyst Howard Fleeter with the Ohio Education Policy Institute said he's supportive of the data that's gathered to inform the progress component, but also suggested there could be a better way to grade it.

"When I was teaching, I thought that if every student was worthy of an A, every student should get an A," he said.

Having closely analyzed report card data, Mr. Fleeter said he's grateful for the wealth of information Ohio collects, which is much more than other states.

Over the years, it's helped him find data trends that can predict how students will perform in the future, reveal persistent learning gaps rooted in poverty, and determine how much it costs to educate different types of students, among other things, he said.

However, when it comes to how the state compiles the data to determine grades, Mr. Fleeter said there'd be no love lost on his part if the state threw out its A-F scale.

"I think that the data that is on the report cards is valuable. I am less of a fan of the actual letter grades," he said.

"I think one way you could defend the letter grades is to say, 'There is so much data that's out there. That regular person needs some sort of a shorthand way to make sense out of it and that's what the letter grades do.' The problem is that the letter grades also lead to some shame."

When the learning standards weren't as stringent and the A-F scale wasn't yet introduced, nearly 300 districts received the highest rating of Excellent on state report cards, according to Department of Education records.

Now that many of those same schools are receiving low marks on report cards, their morale may be down, Mr. Fleeter said.

Rep. Brenner suggested that the change in report card rankings could also have a negative economic impact on the state. He said it could signal to businesses looking to move to Ohio that students are less prepared than they were a few years ago when grades were good, even though districts, parents and many lawmakers don't feel that's the case.

"If you get Fs on the report card, would a major company like Amazon take a look at that?" he questioned.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) said she'd be willing to take legislative action to change report cards, which is the only way modifications can be made. It has to be under the right circumstances, though, she said.

"I'm always open to looking to make the report card a better vehicle that gives us more accurate information and if that's the goal, yes. If the goal is we don't like the results, so let's get rid of the report card, I'd be much more concerned, frankly," said Sen. Lehner, who chairs the Senate Education Committee.

"We need to make sure that the report card is an accurate tool of assessment, but we do need to make sure that we also assess."

Reframing Report Cards: In an effort to stem the wave of concerns that come with every report card release, Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria has continually stressed that viewers should look outside the box.

The Ohio School Boards Association advises its members to do the same, said Damon Asbury, the group's director of legislative services. Board members are also encouraged to highlight their districts' non-academic accomplishments.

"It's an important measure, it tells us a lot of information, but it's not the only measure of how to judge your school district and its progress," he said of report cards.

To aid in the push to reshape thinking, ODE this year introduced a section on the individual grade card pages where districts can link to websites highlighting their successes.

Although the aim has been to reframe the general public conversation about report cards, superintendent DeMaria said the importance of the data they provide should still be at the forefront for policy makers.

"It does not paint a complete picture of what is happening in our schools and districts across the state, but it does paint a picture of what's happening academically to a certain extent and it is something that we should pay attention to," he said.

In a presentation before the Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty, he said report card results show a clear connection between economically disadvantaged students and poor academic outcomes. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

They also show that a few schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students are also high achieving, meaning that those students can learn under the right circumstances, he said.

"It allows us then to dig into this phenomenon that we're here to talk about and that is understanding the achievement gaps and acknowledging them," Superintendent DeMaria said of the assessment results displayed through report cards.

Sen. Lehner said there's also a lot that can be learned from new report card indicators showing how Ohio students scored on the ACT and SAT, which are included in the Prepared for Success measure.

The scores were "abysmally low and seem to track pretty well with some of the other data that we're seeing in the report card and that should give a lot of people pause that the report card, as clumsy as it may be, as lengthy as it may be, that it actually is telling us something that we need to really sit up and pay attention to," she said.

When the first report cards were released about two decades ago, they only showed what percentage of students were proficient on new state exams in core subjects, how many students were graduating and school attendance rates.

The report cards now include six components, ten measures and a handful of ungraded data such as financial information. It takes into account student scores on more than a dozen standardized tests.

The state's data collection to assess schools has come a long way, Mr. Fleeter said. So while report cards shouldn't serve as the sole arbiter of whether schools are preparing students for the future, it wouldn't be wise to dismiss them.

"Now we have the ability to disaggregate the data and look at different types of students and you can compare them and you really can understand what's behind things and where the problems are to a greater degree," he said. "People tend to not think about it, but we are lucky that we have all this information that's out there because we can understand better what we're doing well and what we're not as a state."

Governor Candidates Tout Qualifications At GOP Central Committee

Three of Ohio's four Republican gubernatorial candidates on Friday worked to sway a room full of party leaders on why they should top the ballot heading into the 2018 election.

Secretary of State Jon Husted, U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor each spoke before the GOP State Central Committee at a Columbus-area convention center. Attorney General Mike DeWine, also a candidate for the top executive office, was unable to attend.

Although Ohio Republican Party chairwoman Jane Timken remains adamant the party will not endorse to avoid tipping the primary scales, each statewide GOP contender was given the chance to appear before the committee.

Mr. Husted kicked off the remarks, touting his endorsements from pro-gun groups and his outreach through ten satellite call centers that have already made more than 20,000 calls.

"We outraised all candidates for this race," Mr. Husted said. "And you haven't seen anything yet. We're going to continue to build on that momentum and I'm really excited about it."

Emphasizing his efforts to streamline the business filing process and make his office self-sufficient, he positioned himself as a candidate who will follow through on his promises and thereby restore the faith of jaded voters who are frustrated with the system.

"I believe I can do the best job for you, that I can be the voice of the Republican party and the voice of the State of Ohio that will bring new ideas," Mr. Husted said.

Rep. Renacci, meanwhile, held true to his campaign strategy of painting himself as a Donald Trump-style outsider surrounded by candidates representing the status quo.

He struck a more conciliatory tone than his first television ad, however, giving some praise to Gov. John Kasich and stating that the party has "strong candidates." His TV spot released Thursday, the first of the campaign, blasted his three primary opponents as "Columbus fat cats."

Rep. Renacci described his background as a business owner who has created jobs and said voters are looking for a different type of candidate at the ballot.

"That's who I am," he said. "I'm an individual who hasn't spent my entire life in politics. That's the direction we need to take -- a little bit different vision."

Lt. Gov. Taylor emphasized her past election performance, including her status as the only Republican to win statewide office during the 2006 election when Democrats swept into office.

"We need a candidate in the general election who can win in November no matter what the political landscape looks like," she said. "And I win elections. Period."

She highlighted her tax and healthcare proposals, including her desire to eliminate Medicaid expansion, and pointed to her leadership of the Common Sense Initiative as a testament to her desire to curb government regulations.

Without naming names, she also seemed to downplay her rivals' fundraising strength and the advantage of Mr. DeWine's name recognition.

"People in our state, they choose our leaders," she said. "If money and a family name was all that mattered in races, Jeb Bush would be our nominee and Hillary Clinton would be our president today."

David Pepper, Ohio Democratic Party's chairman, in response called the Republican's primary gubernatorial race "one big race to the right."

"The Republican candidates are focused on nasty attacks against one another, while our Democratic candidates are focused on addressing the concerns of voters," Mr. Pepper said. "We've had 57 straight months of job growth trailing the national average, we're struggling to deal with the nation's worst opioid crisis and our public school system has fallen from fifth in the nation to 22nd. The Republican status quo isn't working for Ohio, and Democrats will represent change in 2018."

Other candidates seeking statewide office that addressed the group include Treasurer Josh Mandel, a U.S. Senate hopeful, Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina), who's running for state auditor, and Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), a state treasurer candidate.

Endorsements: The group's endorsement policy review committee also recommended the party take no stance on Issue 1 -- the Ohio Crime Victims Bill of Rights -- or Issue 2 -- the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act. The full committee accepted that recommendation with no discussion.

The Republican committee did officially endorse a pair of Ohio Supreme Court candidates: Judge Mary DeGenaro and Judge Craig Baldwin.

Judge DeGenaro, of the Seventh District Court of Appeals, and Judge Baldwin, of the Fifth District Court of Appeals, are running for seats occupied by age-limited Justices Terrence O'Donnell and Bill O'Neil.

In other business, the committee also appointed Katie DeLand to the 12th District seat formerly held by Becky Engel.

Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees

The state's two U.S. senators on Friday announced recommendations to fill two seats on the federal bench - and one could mean a change in Gov. John Kasich's cabinet.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) have recommended Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison to fill a seat on the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Ohio soon to be vacated by retiring Judge Thomas Rose.

The lawmakers also forwarded to the White House a recommendation that Fourth District Court of Appeals Judge Matt McFarland fill the seat on the same court vacated by Judge Gregory Frost.

"I am honored to be considered for the position of federal district judge, and I sincerely appreciate the support of Senators Portman and Brown," Ms. Morrison said in a statement. "As the approval process moves forward, I remain committed to serving Ohio's employers and injured workers at the Bureau of Workers' Compensation."

Sen. Portman said Ms. Morrison "enjoys sweeping support for this seat because of her breadth of experience in the public and private sectors, including her time as CEO of Ohio's Bureau of Workers Compensation."

Ms. Morrison, who would serve from Columbus, has led the BWC since May 2016 after joining the bureau in November 2012. Prior to that, she was a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP in Columbus.

She has a law degree from Capital University.

Judge McFarland, who would serve from the court in Dayton, was elected to the state appellate court in 2004 and reelected in 2010 and 2016. Prior to that, he served as a magistrate in the Scioto County Common Pleas Court Probate/Juvenile Division. He also served as an assistant prosecutor in Scioto and Licking counties and as special counsel in the attorney general's office.

He also has a law degree from Capital University.

"It is truly an honor to continue to serve the citizens of Ohio and if nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, I will work tirelessly to make Ohio proud in the administration of justice," he said.

Sen. Portman said Judge McFarland has "been a dedicated public servant in the state court of appeals."

"His esteemed reputation is well deserved and I am confident he will continue to distinguished service on the bench," he said.

Sen. Brown said in both cases he was proud to join his colleague in a bipartisan process and thanked both Ms. Morrison and Judge McFarland for their willingness to serve.

Both were recommended to the senators by a bipartisan advisory committee.

The recommendations will be vetted by the White House and the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee before being considered by the upper chamber.

Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

The Healthy Ohio Medicaid waiver proposal appears to be getting a new look by the Senate, but it's not clear if the chamber will vote to override Gov. John Kasich's veto or approach the effort another way.

The proposal, which was included in the previous budget and rejected by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, was included again in the current budget (HB 49) but vetoed by the governor.

The waiver has drawn questions as to whether it could gain federal approval due to the lack of flexibility the legislation would give the state in negotiating with federal regulators. Nevertheless, some officials say they are optimistic that the Trump administration would be more receptive to the plan than President Barack Obama's.

"I have had positive conversations with the administration in Washington about the Healthy Ohio waiver," Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said this week. "I look forward to additional conversations about that, whether the language that is currently pending in the override is exactly right or not, or if there's changes that we could make to that as separate legislation."

Sen. Obhof said the question of whether or not the Senate takes up the proposal would hinge on the continued debate over the Affordable Care Act at the federal level.

"I do anticipate that if the Medicaid expansion is here for the next few months, at some point we're going to re-evaluate the Healthy Ohio plan and whether to move ahead with the override or introduce additional legislation," he said.

The waiver request would allow the state to have certain Medicaid enrollees pay into modified health savings accounts, which would be used to cover co-pays. The state would also contribute to the accounts, with that money acting as a deductible. People who move off of Medicaid would then be able to use the money left over to cover insurance and other expenses

Some, including members of a Senate committee that discussed waivers this week, have said the current proposal might be too detailed and prescriptive, and would not allow the state to negotiate changes with CMS to earn approval. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 26, 2017)

In his veto message, Gov. Kasich said the proposal has already been rejected by the federal government once.

"The Administration shares the goal of expanding Ohio's flexibility in managing our Medicaid programs, and is committed to working with the General Assembly to seek achievable solutions that would accomplish this goal," he wrote. "Requiring Medicaid to seek an identical waiver for the Healthy Ohio Program would be duplicative and an ill-advised use of Medicaid resources."

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), one of the architects of the proposal, said the state is still able to negotiate changes with CMS despite how prescriptive it is in code.

"In terms of flexibility in negotiations, there is absolutely nothing in statute that would prohibit changes being made and then being ratified by the legislature," he said in an interview.

Rep. Butler said the Senate should follow the House's lead and vote to override the veto. He said the intent was never to have the administration go to the federal government and say "take it or leave it" with what was passed by the legislature. Any changes requested by CMS could then be approved by the General Assembly.

"Anything to the contrary, I think, is an excuse for not submitting a waiver that would have meaning for our health care system and truly control health care costs," he said.

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

The number of abortions in Ohio continued its more than decade-long decline in 2016, falling to just above 20,000, according to figures released Friday.

The Department of Health reported a total of 20,672 abortions in the state in 2016, down about 1% from the prior year's total of 20,976.

Of those, 19,543 were obtained by Ohio residents. Since 2001, the annual decline has averaged about 900 per year, ODH said.

The abortion rate was 8.9 per 1,000 resident women ages 15-44, which was unchanged from 2015, the agency reported. There were 142 abortions by Ohio residents per 1,000 live births.

The number of abortions, which has been tracked since 1976, peaked at more than 45,000 in 1982.

Ohio Right to Life credited the decline to anti-abortion policies enacted at the state level.

"This report is further proof of how successful the pro-life movement has been in Ohio" Mike Gonidakis, the group's president, said in a statement. "This past year alone, we saw 304 lives saved from the pain and suffering of abortion. We continue to advance groundbreaking legislation to protect the unborn, and we thank Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for their role in promoting a culture of life in Ohio. By enacting common sense and life-saving initiatives Ohio is protecting both mothers and their babies."

The group touted legislation it's currently pushing for in the General Assembly, including bills to ban abortions due to a Down syndrome diagnosis (HB 214, SB 164) and to ban "dismemberment" abortions (SB 145).

"The historic low of abortions reported today indicates that the culture of life we've strived for is becoming a reality," Mr. Gonidakis said. "That being said, Ohio Right to Life is whole-heartedly committed to fighting for the sanctity of human life, until the Abortion Report is unnecessary because there are no more abortions committed in Ohio."

NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Deputy Director Jaime Miracle pointed to an increase in the number of non-surgical abortions, from 1,195 in 2015 to 3,818 in 2016. She said that showed the effects of a change by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to allow for a one-pill dosage of a medication used in non-surgical abortions.

"The real story with this year's report is that Ohio women are accessing more affordable medication abortion at a rate closer to before Ohio law required physicians to use an outdated, less effective, more expensive protocol," she said in a statement. "When health care policy is shaped by science, not politics, women win. This report shows that the new FDA protocol allows women to access the health care they need and choose the abortion method that is best for them."

Ms. Miracle said Ohio's nine facilities were able to provide safe, legal and affordable abortions to more than 20,000 women in Ohio.

"Unfortunately, Governor John Kasich and his band of usual suspects have wasted the taxpayers' time and money in pushing illegal and immoral tactics designed to block access to abortion clinics," she said. "Since taking office, Governor Kasich has signed 18 restrictions limiting access to reproductive healthcare in Ohio. Everyone deserves access to safe, affordable reproductive health care, including abortion, in their communities and we will continue to fight to ensure this is the reality in Ohio."

Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants

People suffering from dementia can receive support in their homes, allowing them to stay out of nursing facilities and assisted living longer, the House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia was told this week.

Joe Russell, executive director of the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice, told the task force that providing care for people in their own homes and communities is a quality of life issue.

Family caregivers often face a stressful and constant task of looking after loved ones with Alzheimer's and dementia, he said. Providing scheduled respite services and other in-home services can ease the burden on family members without them having to turn to institutional facilities.

Mr. Russell said the Department of Aging has explored a shared living service under the PASSPORT Medicaid waiver, which would allow a live-in caregiver to provide support in the senior's home. He said his group supports the concept but was concerned about the proposed reimbursement rates.

He said the state could also look at programs to allow for 24-hour in-home care for people with limited family supports. That could include a waiver that allows for personal care, homemaking and companion services provided by a live-in provider supplemented by home care aides in shifts, and monitoring technology.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," he said in testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

The task force also heard from Susan Dickey, who works with the Greater Cincinnati Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She discussed practice recommendations as part of the association's Quality Care Campaign.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," she said in prepared testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

She said the recommendations could be used as a foundation for evaluating clinical outcomes for care in the state.

Medical Marijuana Updates: The Department of Commerce Friday released information from the applications for cultivator licenses. The business entity and contact information forms for the 185 applicants for those licenses are now available online.

The DOC anticipates awarding cultivator licenses in November.

Earlier this week, the DOC announced that two universities - Central State University and Hocking College - had applied for laboratory applications. The department said it would accept applications from private testing laboratories between Nov. 27 and Dec. 8.

Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health Grants...

Advocates in the fight against addiction gathered at the Statehouse Friday in the annual Rally for Recovery, emphasizing the importance of family and community members in supporting people battling substance use disorder.

The event hosted by Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery featured advocacy groups and providers offering information about social supports for people with addiction. Those who received awards included Gov. John Kasich, who was recognized with the Recovery Ally Award for his work promoting policy to fight drug addiction and expanding Medicaid.

Tracy Plouck, director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, said the rally was a way to demonstrate the importance of supporting people battling substance abuse.

"This is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about how many people around our state are actually living in recovery," she said in an interview. "They're in all neighborhoods, all communities, and recovery is possible. I think this is an opportunity to reduce stigma and show that it isn't just individuals who are living in recovery. It's families, it's neighbors, it's employers, everybody can come together and provide support."

Director Plouck said community supports are essential in helping people who start down the path to recovery stay there.

"Clinical services are increasingly available because of the Medicaid expansion and the changes that have occurred in the last few years, but the availability of different recovery supports is equally important, really," she said. "You can connect with sobriety, but you need supports in the community, you need to not feel isolated in order to sustain that recovery."

Speakers included Joe Smith, a father of three daughters who suffer from addiction, who said recovery takes more than one person.

"It takes the community to recover," he said. "Each one of us who recovers helps facilitate the recovery of others."

Behavioral Health Grants: ODMHAS announced \$6 million in grants this week for community mental health and addiction service providers. The funding was awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to certified providers who intended to initiate or expand workforce capacity through training, tuition reimbursement and loan repayment programs.

"Ohio, like the rest of the nation is experiencing challenges to recruit, retain and support, on a long term basis, our existing workforce in community behavioral health agencies," Director Plouck said in a statement. "These grants represent another step forward as we work collectively to build a highly-qualified workforce and significantly increase system capacity at a time when communities continue to face serious challenges with opioid addiction and mental illness."

The department sent award notices to 61 providers across the state, who were each eligible for one-time funding up to \$100,000.

Pharmacy Grant: The State Board of Pharmacy this week also announced it received a grant worth nearly \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of justice to fund a two-year pre-criminal intervention program to deal with prescription drug abuse.

The program will use data from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System to identify signs of prescription drug abuse and connect those people with drug treatment or other support services.

"The goal of the program is to prevent addicted individuals from entering the criminal justice system," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven Schierholt said. "By engaging early, we can direct individuals to treatment before they turn to illicit, and more potent, drugs such as heroin or fentanyl."

High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal Judgeship...

A trial court is under no obligation to wait until the statute of limitations expires to seal the records in a case dismissed without prejudice, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled.

The decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell resolves a conflict between the Fifth District Court of Appeals and the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

"Had the legislature intended for the applicable statute of limitations in a case dismissed without prejudice to expire before a trial court can seal a record under R.C. 2953.52(B)(4), it could have used the language it did in R.C. 2953.52(B)(3) regarding applications to seal records of DNA specimens. But it did not do so," he wrote.

The conflict was certified after James Dye of Pickerington had five misdemeanor charges against him dismissed without prejudice in the Fairfield County Municipal Court. He unsuccessfully sought to have the dismissal sealed by the trial court, a decision that was upheld by the Fifth District Court of Appeals, the high court reported.

Mr. Dye argued that both courts erred in determining that he was not eligible to have the records sealed because the statute of limitations had not expired.

The state, like Mr. Dye, argued that the statute is unambiguous. However, it said the language clearly makes him ineligible to have his record sealed until the statute of limitations expires.

Justice O'Donnell was joined in his opinion by five of his fellow members of the court, while Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor concurred in judgement only.

Union Case: The Buckeye Institute has joined a legal battle that could have major implications for public sector unions.

The group filed an amicus brief in the case of *Janus v. AFSCME*, which is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mark Janus, a child support specialist in Illinois, argues that being forced to pay agencies fees after opting out of his collective bargaining unit is a violation of his First Amendment rights.

"We are pleased that the Supreme Court will take up this crucial case to protect the First Amendment rights of public employees," President and CEO Robert Alt said. "Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree and forcing them to pay fees to a union in order to keep their jobs is unjust and unconstitutional. We are confident that Mr. Janus will prevail and that the court will rule in favor of the First Amendment rights of all public employees."

Federal Judgeship: President Donald Trump has nominated Ryan T. Holte to serve on the bench of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Mr. Holte currently serves as an associate professor of law and the director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Technology at the University of Akron School of Law.

He serves as general counsel, partner, and co-inventor of an electrical engineering technology company. He also worked as a trial attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, practiced law as an associate at Jones Day and clerked for a judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Federal Grant: An eight-state collaborative formed to combat the opioid crisis will receive a \$1 million federal grant to aid in its efforts, the high court announced Friday.

The Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative - comprised of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia - was awarded the grant by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"Our regional effort serves as a bridge connecting key leaders and staff from law enforcement, to courts, to treatment providers, to children services and other aid organizations," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "This grant will go a long way toward helping close the information, enforcement, services and treatment gaps that have allowed this epidemic to fester and grow."

Volunteers Honored: Fourteen individuals who lead tours at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center were honored for their service by all seven high court justices during a luncheon, according to the court.

"Your knowledge and enthusiasm are appreciated throughout the building by the staff and the justices," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "I want you to know that. Those of us who work here, and you by extension, as being a face with many of the students that come into this building, are extremely proud of the building and proud of what you do for us in showcasing the building and this institution."

Judicial Candidates: The Board of Professional Conduct announced its 2018 schedule of seminars for judicial candidates.

Disciplinary Hearings: The Board of Professional Conduct also announced disciplinary hearings scheduled for October.

Borges Issues Warning After OEC Ruling; Dems Pile On Over ECOT Overpayments; Renacci Cancels NFL Ad

An Elections Commission ruling could drastically alter the landscape of elections in Ohio, a former chairman of the Ohio Republican Party said Friday.

Matt Borges, who is now working for the Yes on Issue 2 campaign, said the panel's Thursday decision to dismiss two complaints against the opponents of a November ballot measure could open the door for political campaigns to use LLCs as pass-through entities to avoid financial disclosures.

Dismissed were complaints that the opposition PAC, Ohioans Against Issue 2, intentionally hid the source of its fundraising and violated state campaign finance disclosure laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

Both complaints filed by the Yes campaign centered on the idea that PhARMA, a trade association of the pharmaceutical industry, was used as a pass-through entity to conceal millions of dollars of contributions from the drug industry to the PAC.

"If they had to do some long-term damage to Ohio to get what they want, they had no problem with that," Mr. Borges said. "They have been trying to keep folks in the dark throughout this entire campaign."

But Dale Butland, a spokesman for the No campaign, said the letter of the law was followed.

"If Matt Borges and the Yes side believe that Ohio law should be changed, then they should go to the legislature and ask them to do that," he said.

Mr. Butland also said Mr. Borges complaint about the dismissal is emblematic of a campaign in a "death spiral."

"The reason that they are going to lose isn't because there hasn't been enough debates, it's not because our side is not following the law, it's because they have a lousy proposal that will do great damage to this state and its people," he said.

ECOT Overpayments: With the announcement Thursday that the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow will be docked an additional \$19 million for overpayments, one gubernatorial candidate is calling for the school to be "expelled."

Betty Sutton called the school's proposed change in status to a dropout and recovery institution a "sham."

"A failing school shouldn't be allowed to teach at-risk kids just so it can continue to rip off taxpayers. When a school lies and cheats they should be expelled. It's plain and simple. If they can't do basic math, they should not pretend to teach Ohio's kids," the Democrat said.

"It is beyond ridiculous that a sham school that leads Ohio in dropouts would be designated a dropout recovery school. We need to make Ohio the opportunity state by providing a good education for our children and that starts with expelling ECOT."

A Department of Education audit found that ECOT last year over-reported the number of full-time students it enrolls by 18.5% (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

The online charter school has already been order to repay \$60 million from the 2015-16 school year.

Renacci Ad: Those watching the Cleveland Browns take on the Cincinnati Bengals this weekend will not be learning about U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci's gubernatorial campaign.

The Alliance Republican announced Friday that he has canceled a \$20,000 ad buy during the game in the wake of a growing number of NFL players using the National Anthem as a platform to protest what they believe is racial injustice.

"While the First Amendment clearly affords NFL players and officials the freedom to engage in this appalling behavior, having the right to do something does not mean it's the right thing to do. Throughout our nation's history, countless American men and women of all backgrounds and races have sacrificed deeply to protect and preserve the ideals that our nation and its flag stand for - and our National Anthem serves as a tribute to that sacrifice that we should honor, not disparage," he said.

"And while the right to speak and protest peacefully is a fundamental freedom that we as Americans enjoy, protesting the most sacred symbols of those freedoms is both sadly ironic and an inexcusable, offensive display of contempt for what our nation stands for."

Harbaugh Endorsement: Ken Harbaugh, who is seeking to oust U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-Lakeview), announced that the Communications Workers of America has endorsed his candidacy in the 7th Congressional District.

"I am honored to have this endorsement from CWA. Ohio workers are among the best in the world. We need to fight for fair trade agreements and give our hard-working men and women a level playing field on which to compete," the Democrat said. "Folks working full-time jobs can and should be able to support their families. CWA is fighting for these improvements and so am I."

Added CWA District 4 Vice President Linda Hinton: "Ken's education, military background, and the fact he has spent a life helping others, show the experience and character needed to make workers and working families a priority."

Agency Briefs: Ohio Minimum Wage Rising In 2018; OPSB; USDA; ODA

Ohio's minimum wage will rise to \$8.30 per hour next year, up about 2% alongside the rate of inflation, the Department of Commerce announced Friday.

The \$8.30 wage applies to non-tipped employees at businesses with gross annual receipts of more than \$305,000 per year. For tipped employees, the new minimum wage will be \$4.15 per hour.

The current minimum wage is \$8.15 for non-tipped employees and \$4.08 for tipped employees.

For people who work at companies with gross receipts below \$305,000, and for 14- and 15-year-olds, the minimum wage will be the federal rate of \$7.25 per hour.

The state increase stems from an increase of 1.9% in the consumer price index.

Public Utilities: The Power Siting Board will hold a hearing Dec. 5 to allow the public to voice views about a proposal by Vinton Solar Energy LLC to build a solar-powered electric generation facility in Vinton county.

The hearing will take place at 6 p.m. that day at the Vinton County Community Building in McArthur.

The proposed facility would include arrays of solar panels with a combined generating capacity of up to 125 megawatts. It would be located on 1,950 acres of leased land in Elk Township, and the facility would be connected to the grid through American Electric Power's nearby Elk substation.

The adjudicatory hearing in the case will be at 10 a.m. Dec. 15 at the PUCO offices in Columbus.

U.S. Department of Agriculture: The department will award a \$22,910 solid waste management grant to Mahoning County, U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) announced. The money will help fund the county's solid waste management district's rural recycling education and awareness program.

"I am pleased to announce this federal funding for Mahoning County," Rep. Ryan said in a statement.

"When it comes to preserving our environment for our kids, like many other issues, change starts at home. I am encouraged to see state and local governments like Mahoning County continuing to lead the charge on sustainability education. This funding will give rural Mahoning County an important boost, and represents a crucial federal investment. As long as I am in Congress, I will continue to fight to bring these important funds back to Northeast Ohio."

Agriculture: Gov. John Kasich on Friday signed an executive order creating an emergency rule on inflatable amusement ride safety inspections related to a change in the biennial budget bill.

The measure (HB 49) eliminated the statutory inspection fee for rides and granted authority to the Department of Agriculture director to develop rules for the fee structure.

The emergency rule announced in the EO will fill the gap until ODO develops the final rules for the inspections.

Governor's Appointments

State Dental Board: Theodore T. Bauer, DDS of Columbus for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending April 6, 2021.

Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board: Jaime L. Darr, DDS of Massillon for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending January 28, 2019.

Ohio Expositions Commission: John R. Page of Lewis Center for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending December 1, 2020.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2017-032. Requested by Williams County Prosecuting Attorney Katherine J. Zartman. SYLLABUS:

A person may not serve simultaneously as prosecuting attorney of Williams County and member of a joint-county board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services of a joint-county alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service district of which Williams County is a part.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, October 2

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, October 3

BRAC & Military Affairs Task Force, Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, 7370 Minuteman Way, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Board of Building Appeals, Ohio Department of Transportation, District Three Office, Conference Room, 906 Clark Avenue, Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Real Estate Commission, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Thursday, October 5

Power Siting Board, 180 E. Broad St., Room 11B, Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 6

Board of Building Standards, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, October 3

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 10/2/2017

Monday, October 2

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 3

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of William Sanderson, Ohio Housing Finance Agency

- HB 52** **DEED SOLICITATION** (Rezabek, J.) To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 120** **DEBT ADJUSTING** (Eklund, J.) Regarding debt adjusting (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- SB 121** **MAMMOGRAM COVERAGE** (Eklund, J.) To include tomosynthesis as part of required screening mammography benefits under health insurance policies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 169** **TRAVEL INSURANCE** (Wilson, S.) To oversee the sale of travel insurance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 199** **MORTGAGE LENDING** (Blessing, L.) To create the Ohio Residential Mortgage Lending Act for the purpose of regulating all non-depository lending secured by residential real estate and to limit the application of the current Mortgage Loan Law to unsecured loans and loans secured by other than residential real estate. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

- SB 195** **DOGS LAW** (Beagle, B.) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 196** **BULLYING** (Williams, S.) To create the offense of aggravated bullying, a third-degree misdemeanor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 130** **FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT** (Tavares, C.) To add two judges to the Domestic Relations Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2018. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 150** **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** (Brown, E.) To prohibit a person convicted of domestic violence or assault of a family member, or a person subject to certain protection orders, from having a firearm; to establish a procedure for surrendering all firearms in the person's possession; and to name the act the "Domestic Violence Survivors Protection Act." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- SB 138** **INMATE SEARCHES (Eklund, J.)** To authorize a corrections officer to cause a body cavity search to be conducted, to establish separate rules and restrictions for conducting strip searches, and to limit the right of any person to commence a civil action for a violation of the law governing body cavity searches and strip searches to violations related to body cavity searches. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 6** **EXTRADITION (O'Brien, S.)** To urge the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, and the Congress of the United States to compel Brazil to extradite Claudia Hoerig to stand trial for the aggravated murder of her husband, Major Karl Hoerig, and to request that the United States terminate foreign aid payments to Brazil if Claudia Hoerig is not extradited. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SCR 10** **GAULT DECISION (Thomas, C.)** To recognize 2017 as the fiftieth anniversary of In re Gault. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 171** **PROTECTION ORDERS (Hottinger, J.)** To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 122, 2:30 p.m.
- Presentation from Dr. Robert Applebaum of the Scripps Gerontology Center: "Policy Does Matter: Continued Progress in Providing Long Term Services and Supports for Ohio's Older Population"
- HB 286** **PALLIATIVE CARE (LaTourette, S.)** To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)
- House Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624), Rm. 116, 3 p.m.
- HB 239** **SECURITY RESOURCES (Smith, R., Carfagna, R.)** To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) (Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Joshua Cox, Benjamin Fields and Megan Marchal, State Board of Pharmacy; Michael Gonidakis, State Medical Board and Robert Schuerger, II, Ohio Athletic Commission
- HB 145** **CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.)** To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 143** **DAY DESIGNATION (Eklund, J.)** To designate September 25 as 'International Ataxia Awareness Day' in Ohio. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 111** **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.)** To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Wednesday, October 4

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 118 **PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS (Merrin, D.)** To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 186 **BUSINESS INCOME (Peterson, B.)** To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & Interested party)

HB 69 **TIF DISTRICTS (Cupp, R.)** To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10 a.m.

- Presentations on autonomous and connected vehicles from Jonathan Weinberger, VP of Innovation and Technology for the Auto Alliance and Josh Fisher, manager state government affairs for Global Automakers

Tuesday, October 10

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

- If needed
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.
- If needed
Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

- If needed

Wednesday, October 11


Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 12

Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, September 30-Monday, October 2

Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 12

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, October 2

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Speaker's Task Force on Heroin, Opioids, Prevention, Education, and Safety, MetroHealth, Scott Auditorium, Cleveland, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)

Lobbyist and Employer Activity & Expenditure Reports for the May-August 2017 reporting period are due

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

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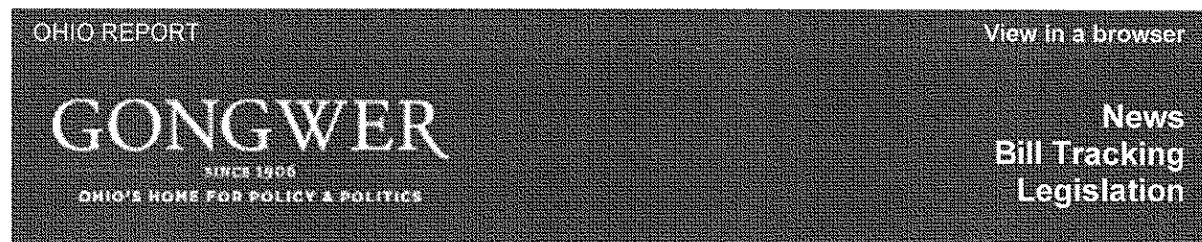
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Governor Candidates Tout Qualifications At GOP Central Committee

Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees

Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants

Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health Grants...

High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal Judgeship...

Borges Issues Warning After OEC Ruling; Dems Pile On Over ECOT Overpayments; Renacci Cancels NFL Ad

Agency Briefs: Ohio Minimum Wage Rising In 2018; OPSB; USDA; ODA

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Tuesday, October 3

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)
Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) cigar fundraiser, Lexi's, 100 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Lane, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Event Sponsor | \$400 per Team | \$200 Tee Sponsor | \$100 per Golfer to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) family picnic, Warren County Armco Park, 1223 OH-741, Lebanon, 1 p.m.

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Tuesday, October 10

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Niraj Antani)

Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) and Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Rezabek and/or Manning for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus), Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Lounge, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Kevin Bacon or The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) and Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of Matt Dolan Or Citizens for Hottinger)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Team West)

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Steve Huffman for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor D, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Friends of Ron Young)

Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Former Speaker Bill Batchelder. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Tim Ginter for State Representative)

House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) fundraiser, Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus, 161 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500, Friend: \$350 to Committee to Elect Fred Strahorn)

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Lexi's on Third, 100 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of John Eklund)

Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Michael Sheehy)

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Supporter \$500, Attendee \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (\$2500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Einstein's, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor - \$500 or Suggested Contribution - \$350 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) fundraiser, deNOVO, 150 S. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends for Steve Arndt)

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold Sponsor \$2,500, Silver Sponsor \$1,000, Bronze Sponsor \$500, Supporter \$250 to Kathleen Clyde Committee)

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Special Guest: Senate President Larry Obhof. Event

Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, Maumee Bay Brew Pub, 27 Broadway Street, Toledo, 4:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1,000 Event Sponsor; \$500 Lane Sponsor; \$100 per Person; \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Tuesday, October 24

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$10,000; Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000 to Friends of Ryan Smith)

Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) & Rep. Nick Celebrezze (D-Parma) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 7 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Nicholas J. Celebrezze and Jack Cera for State Representative)

Wednesday, October 25

Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chesterland) and Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to LaTourette for Ohio and/or Citizens for Gavarone)

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, The Lounge at Latitude 41, Renaissance Hotel, 50 North 3rd Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Thursday, October 26

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Cimenero's Banquet Center, 123 N. Main St., Niles, 5 p.m., (Victory Sponsor \$1,400, Touchdown Sponsor \$700, Field Goal Sponsor \$300, Individual Tickets \$50 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sunday, October 29

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus

Ohio Democratic Party state dinner, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus, (Featured speaker: Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe)

Tuesday, October 31

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor on the Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000,

Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) & Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Einstein's Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Emilia Sykes Campaign and Sykes for Office)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,000; Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Individual: \$350 to Seitz for Ohio and/or Citizens for Blessing)

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Lincoln Cafe, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent for Ohio)

Thursday, November 2

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Medina) fundraiser, High & Low Winery, 588 Medina Road, Wadsworth, 6 p.m., (Special Guest President Larry Obhof. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee)

Wednesday, November 8

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Citizens for Duffey and/or Lanese for Ohio)
Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Chair | \$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$350 Attendee to The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)

Tuesday, November 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, November 29

Rep. Michele LePore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio)

Thursday, November 30

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Derek Merrin)

Tuesday, December 5

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Gary Scherer)

Wednesday, December 6

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Citizens for Schuring Committee)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville

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Volume #86, Report #189 -- Friday, September 29, 2017

Grading The State Report Card: Experts, Policy Makers Weigh In On How Ohio Assesses K-12 Education

From confusion and frustration to hopefulness and enlightenment, the responses to state report card grades released this month have run the gamut.

Schools and parents around the state have largely dismissed the rankings, which have dropped significantly since new standards were put in place a few years ago. Many have publicly criticized the grades, saying they're not rooted in reliable methods or just plain don't make sense.

A handful of education researchers and stakeholder groups, meanwhile, have released reports that rely on the report card data and tout its value in tracking trends. The analyses compare charter and traditional schools and gauge, among other things, how disadvantaged students are stacking up to their more privileged peers.

But, like them or not, report cards are here to stay. New federal K-12 laws continue to require states to assess students and schools as well as publish annual ratings.

So how then do policymakers and the K-12 community put an end to the report card frenzy that's become an annual occurrence since the state upped learning standards and moved to an A-F grading scale?

For some, the answer is to change how the bevy of school and testing data is presented.

Push For Change: Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said he plans to introduce legislation and bring together a stakeholder group to overhaul report cards so that they no longer grade districts, but instead simply present information.

He said the goal is to fairly provide details of how schools are doing at educating students and quiet public distrust surrounding the current grading system.

"There seems to be an emerging consensus among superintendents and school boards of education and I think legislators are picking this up from the community and parents and from their own experience that report cards have been too volatile," Rep. Duffey said.

More than a dozen other states have instituted an A-F grading scale over the last few years. Like Ohio, many have put off handing out one overall grade to each district in an effort to ease into the change.

However, a handful may never get to that point in their reporting because of backlash to the grades. West Virginia, Alabama and Texas are just a few states debating how to move forward, according to reports.

Rep. Duffey said the public outcry in Ohio is already loud enough to require change, proving that parents and students think their schools are doing better than the report cards reflect.

Many districts, including wealthy suburban districts that were previously accustomed to getting As, have received Fs in a handful of categories over the past two years despite overall scores improving this year. Urban districts that have retooled their entire curricula and cultures say their progress isn't translating to higher report card scores.

"Parents are by and large siding with their school districts over the state, which means the state report card does not have the public's trust," he said. "When it doesn't have the public's trust, it fails to have value as a tool for the state."

The progress measure of the report card is the most-often challenged of the six graded components.

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell), who chairs the House Education Committee, said its calculation needs changed because it is a zero-sum ranking, meaning districts can only score better each year if they're making more progress in relation to the progress other schools have made.

For example, students at Olentangy Local Schools saw growth on average, but their progress component score was an F because there wasn't as much growth as experienced by students at Rocky River City Schools, which received an A, he said.

"If everybody else is doing OK, then they can fall off and I'm not really sure that that's what we should do," Rep. Brenner said.

"I think we need to make sure that we're giving the data to the schools and districts so they understand what they need to do to improve the districts if they're capable," and the current grading formula doesn't always allow that, he said.

Data analyst Howard Fleeter with the Ohio Education Policy Institute said he's supportive of the data that's gathered to inform the progress component, but also suggested there could be a better way to grade it.

"When I was teaching, I thought that if every student was worthy of an A, every student should get an A," he said.

Having closely analyzed report card data, Mr. Fleeter said he's grateful for the wealth of information Ohio collects, which is much more than other states.

Over the years, it's helped him find data trends that can predict how students will perform in the future, reveal persistent learning gaps rooted in poverty, and determine how much it costs to educate different types of students, among other things, he said.

However, when it comes to how the state compiles the data to determine grades, Mr. Fleeter said there'd be no love lost on his part if the state threw out its A-F scale.

"I think that the data that is on the report cards is valuable. I am less of a fan of the actual letter grades," he said.

"I think one way you could defend the letter grades is to say, 'There is so much data that's out there. That regular person needs some sort of a shorthand way to make sense out of it and that's what the letter grades do.' The problem is that the letter grades also lead to some shame."

When the learning standards weren't as stringent and the A-F scale wasn't yet introduced, nearly 300 districts received the highest rating of Excellent on state report cards, according to Department of Education records.

Now that many of those same schools are receiving low marks on report cards, their morale may be down, Mr. Fleeter said.

Rep. Brenner suggested that the change in report card rankings could also have a negative economic impact on the state. He said it could signal to businesses looking to move to Ohio that students are less prepared than they were a few years ago when grades were good, even though districts, parents and many lawmakers don't feel that's the case.

"If you get Fs on the report card, would a major company like Amazon take a look at that?" he questioned.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) said she'd be willing to take legislative action to change report cards, which is the only way modifications can be made. It has to be under the right circumstances, though, she said.

"I'm always open to looking to make the report card a better vehicle that gives us more accurate information and if that's the goal, yes. If the goal is we don't like the results, so let's get rid of the report card, I'd be much more concerned, frankly," said Sen. Lehner, who chairs the Senate Education Committee.

"We need to make sure that the report card is an accurate tool of assessment, but we do need to make sure that we also assess."

Reframing Report Cards: In an effort to stem the wave of concerns that come with every report card release, Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria has continually stressed that viewers should look outside the box.

The Ohio School Boards Association advises its members to do the same, said Damon Asbury, the group's director of legislative services. Board members are also encouraged to highlight their districts' non-academic accomplishments.

"It's an important measure, it tells us a lot of information, but it's not the only measure of how to judge your school district and its progress," he said of report cards.

To aid in the push to reshape thinking, ODE this year introduced a section on the individual grade card pages where districts can link to websites highlighting their successes.

Although the aim has been to reframe the general public conversation about report cards, superintendent DeMaria said the importance of the data they provide should still be at the forefront for policy makers.

"It does not paint a complete picture of what is happening in our schools and districts across the state, but it does paint a picture of what's happening academically to a certain extent and it is something that we should pay attention to," he said.

In a presentation before the Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty, he said report card results show a clear connection between economically disadvantaged students and poor academic outcomes. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

They also show that a few schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students are also high achieving, meaning that those students can learn under the right circumstances, he said.

"It allows us then to dig into this phenomenon that we're here to talk about and that is understanding the achievement gaps and acknowledging them," Superintendent DeMaria said of the assessment results displayed through report cards.

Sen. Lehner said there's also a lot that can be learned from new report card indicators showing how Ohio students scored on the ACT and SAT, which are included in the Prepared for Success measure.

The scores were "abysmally low and seem to track pretty well with some of the other data that we're seeing in the report card and that should give a lot of people pause that the report card, as clumsy as it may be, as lengthy as it may be, that it actually is telling us something that we need to really sit up and pay attention to," she said.

When the first report cards were released about two decades ago, they only showed what percentage of students were proficient on new state exams in core subjects, how many students were graduating and school attendance rates.

The report cards now include six components, ten measures and a handful of ungraded data such as financial information. It takes into account student scores on more than a dozen standardized tests.

The state's data collection to assess schools has come a long way, Mr. Fleeter said. So while report cards shouldn't serve as the sole arbiter of whether schools are preparing students for the future, it wouldn't be wise to dismiss them.

"Now we have the ability to disaggregate the data and look at different types of students and you can compare them and you really can understand what's behind things and where the problems are to a greater degree," he said. "People tend to not think about it, but we are lucky that we have all this information that's out there because we can understand better what we're doing well and what we're not as a state."

Governor Candidates Tout Qualifications At GOP Central Committee

Three of Ohio's four Republican gubernatorial candidates on Friday worked to sway a room full of party leaders on why they should top the ballot heading into the 2018 election.

Secretary of State Jon Husted, U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor each spoke before the GOP State Central Committee at a Columbus-area convention center. Attorney General Mike DeWine, also a candidate for the top executive office, was unable to attend.

Although Ohio Republican Party chairwoman Jane Timken remains adamant the party will not endorse to avoid tipping the primary scales, each statewide GOP contender was given the chance to appear before the committee.

Mr. Husted kicked off the remarks, touting his endorsements from pro-gun groups and his outreach through ten satellite call centers that have already made more than 20,000 calls.

"We outraised all candidates for this race," Mr. Husted said. "And you haven't seen anything yet. We're going to continue to build on that momentum and I'm really excited about it."

Emphasizing his efforts to streamline the business filing process and make his office self-sufficient, he positioned himself as a candidate who will follow through on his promises and thereby restore the faith of jaded voters who are frustrated with the system.

"I believe I can do the best job for you, that I can be the voice of the Republican party and the voice of the State of Ohio that will bring new ideas," Mr. Husted said.

Rep. Renacci, meanwhile, held true to his campaign strategy of painting himself as a Donald Trump-style outsider surrounded by candidates representing the status quo.

He struck a more conciliatory tone than his first television ad, however, giving some praise to Gov. John Kasich and stating that the party has "strong candidates." His TV spot released Thursday, the first of the campaign, blasted his three primary opponents as "Columbus fat cats."

Rep. Renacci described his background as a business owner who has created jobs and said voters are looking for a different type of candidate at the ballot.

"That's who I am," he said. "I'm an individual who hasn't spent my entire life in politics. That's the direction we need to take -- a little bit different vision."

Lt. Gov. Taylor emphasized her past election performance, including her status as the only Republican to win statewide office during the 2006 election when Democrats swept into office.

"We need a candidate in the general election who can win in November no matter what the political landscape looks like," she said. "And I win elections. Period."

She highlighted her tax and healthcare proposals, including her desire to eliminate Medicaid expansion, and pointed to her leadership of the Common Sense Initiative as a testament to her desire to curb government regulations.

Without naming names, she also seemed to downplay her rivals' fundraising strength and the advantage of Mr. DeWine's name recognition.

"People in our state, they choose our leaders," she said. "If money and a family name was all that mattered in races, Jeb Bush would be our nominee and Hillary Clinton would be our president today."

David Pepper, Ohio Democratic Party's chairman, in response called the Republican's primary gubernatorial race "one big race to the right."

"The Republican candidates are focused on nasty attacks against one another, while our Democratic candidates are focused on addressing the concerns of voters," Mr. Pepper said. "We've had 57 straight months of job growth trailing the national average, we're struggling to deal with the nation's worst opioid crisis and our public school system has fallen from fifth in the nation to 22nd. The Republican status quo isn't working for Ohio, and Democrats will represent change in 2018."

Other candidates seeking statewide office that addressed the group include Treasurer Josh Mandel, a U.S. Senate hopeful, Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina), who's running for state auditor, and Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), a state treasurer candidate.

Endorsements: The group's endorsement policy review committee also recommended the party take no stance on Issue 1 -- the Ohio Crime Victims Bill of Rights -- or Issue 2 -- the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act. The full committee accepted that recommendation with no discussion.

The Republican committee did officially endorse a pair of Ohio Supreme Court candidates: Judge Mary DeGenaro and Judge Craig Baldwin.

Judge DeGenaro, of the Seventh District Court of Appeals, and Judge Baldwin, of the Fifth District Court of Appeals, are running for seats occupied by age-limited Justices Terrence O'Donnell and Bill O'Neil.

In other business, the committee also appointed Katie DeLand to the 12th District seat formerly held by Becky Engel.

Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees

The state's two U.S. senators on Friday announced recommendations to fill two seats on the federal bench - and one could mean a change in Gov. John Kasich's cabinet.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) have recommended Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison to fill a seat on the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Ohio soon to be vacated by retiring Judge Thomas Rose.

The lawmakers also forwarded to the White House a recommendation that Fourth District Court of Appeals Judge Matt McFarland fill the seat on the same court vacated by Judge Gregory Frost.

"I am honored to be considered for the position of federal district judge, and I sincerely appreciate the support of Senators Portman and Brown," Ms. Morrison said in a statement. "As the approval process moves forward, I remain committed to serving Ohio's employers and injured workers at the Bureau of Workers' Compensation."

Sen. Portman said Ms. Morrison "enjoys sweeping support for this seat because of her breadth of experience in the public and private sectors, including her time as CEO of Ohio's Bureau of Workers Compensation."

Ms. Morrison, who would serve from Columbus, has led the BWC since May 2016 after joining the bureau in November 2012. Prior to that, she was a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP in Columbus.

She has a law degree from Capital University.

Judge McFarland, who would serve from the court in Dayton, was elected to the state appellate court in 2004 and reelected in 2010 and 2016. Prior to that, he served as a magistrate in the Scioto County Common Pleas Court Probate/Juvenile Division. He also served as an assistant prosecutor in Scioto and Licking counties and as special counsel in the attorney general's office.

He also has a law degree from Capital University.

"It is truly an honor to continue to serve the citizens of Ohio and if nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, I will work tirelessly to make Ohio proud in the administration of justice," he said.

Sen. Portman said Judge McFarland has "been a dedicated public servant in the state court of appeals."

"His esteemed reputation is well deserved and I am confident he will continue to distinguished service on the bench," he said.

Sen. Brown said in both cases he was proud to join his colleague in a bipartisan process and thanked both Ms. Morrison and Judge McFarland for their willingness to serve.

Both were recommended to the senators by a bipartisan advisory committee.

The recommendations will be vetted by the White House and the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee before being considered by the upper chamber.

Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

The Healthy Ohio Medicaid waiver proposal appears to be getting a new look by the Senate, but it's not clear if the chamber will vote to override Gov. John Kasich's veto or approach the effort another way.

The proposal, which was included in the previous budget and rejected by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, was included again in the current budget (HB 49) but vetoed by the governor.

The waiver has drawn questions as to whether it could gain federal approval due to the lack of flexibility the legislation would give the state in negotiating with federal regulators. Nevertheless, some officials say they are optimistic that the Trump administration would be more receptive to the plan than President Barack Obama's.

"I have had positive conversations with the administration in Washington about the Healthy Ohio waiver," Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said this week. "I look forward to additional conversations about that, whether the language that is currently pending in the override is exactly right or not, or if there's changes that we could make to that as separate legislation."

Sen. Obhof said the question of whether or not the Senate takes up the proposal would hinge on the continued debate over the Affordable Care Act at the federal level.

"I do anticipate that if the Medicaid expansion is here for the next few months, at some point we're going to re-evaluate the Healthy Ohio plan and whether to move ahead with the override or introduce additional legislation," he said.

The waiver request would allow the state to have certain Medicaid enrollees pay into modified health savings accounts, which would be used to cover co-pays. The state would also contribute to the accounts, with that money acting as a deductible. People who move off of Medicaid would then be able to use the money left over to cover insurance and other expenses

Some, including members of a Senate committee that discussed waivers this week, have said the current proposal might be too detailed and prescriptive, and would not allow the state to negotiate changes with CMS to earn approval. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 26, 2017)

In his veto message, Gov. Kasich said the proposal has already been rejected by the federal government once.

"The Administration shares the goal of expanding Ohio's flexibility in managing our Medicaid programs, and is committed to working with the General Assembly to seek achievable solutions that would accomplish this goal," he wrote. "Requiring Medicaid to seek an identical waiver for the Healthy Ohio Program would be duplicative and an ill-advised use of Medicaid resources."

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), one of the architects of the proposal, said the state is still able to negotiate changes with CMS despite how prescriptive it is in code.

"In terms of flexibility in negotiations, there is absolutely nothing in statute that would prohibit changes being made and then being ratified by the legislature," he said in an interview.

Rep. Butler said the Senate should follow the House's lead and vote to override the veto. He said the intent was never to have the administration go to the federal government and say "take it or leave it" with what was passed by the legislature. Any changes requested by CMS could then be approved by the General Assembly.

"Anything to the contrary, I think, is an excuse for not submitting a waiver that would have meaning for our health care system and truly control health care costs," he said.

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

The number of abortions in Ohio continued its more than decade-long decline in 2016, falling to just above 20,000, according to figures released Friday.

The Department of Health reported a total of 20,672 abortions in the state in 2016, down about 1% from the prior year's total of 20,976.

Of those, 19,543 were obtained by Ohio residents. Since 2001, the annual decline has averaged about 900 per year, ODH said.

The abortion rate was 8.9 per 1,000 resident women ages 15-44, which was unchanged from 2015, the agency reported. There were 142 abortions by Ohio residents per 1,000 live births.

The number of abortions, which has been tracked since 1976, peaked at more than 45,000 in 1982.

Ohio Right to Life credited the decline to anti-abortion policies enacted at the state level.

"This report is further proof of how successful the pro-life movement has been in Ohio" Mike Gonidakis, the group's president, said in a statement. "This past year alone, we saw 304 lives saved from the pain and suffering of abortion. We continue to advance groundbreaking legislation to protect the unborn, and we thank Governor John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for their role in promoting a culture of life in Ohio. By enacting common sense and life-saving initiatives Ohio is protecting both mothers and their babies."

The group touted legislation it's currently pushing for in the General Assembly, including bills to ban abortions due to a Down syndrome diagnosis (HB 214, SB 164) and to ban "dismemberment" abortions (SB 145).

"The historic low of abortions reported today indicates that the culture of life we've strived for is becoming a reality," Mr. Gonidakis said. "That being said, Ohio Right to Life is whole-heartedly committed to fighting for the sanctity of human life, until the Abortion Report is unnecessary because there are no more abortions committed in Ohio."

NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Deputy Director Jaime Miracle pointed to an increase in the number of non-surgical abortions, from 1,195 in 2015 to 3,818 in 2016. She said that showed the effects of a change by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to allow for a one-pill dosage of a medication used in non-surgical abortions.

"The real story with this year's report is that Ohio women are accessing more affordable medication abortion at a rate closer to before Ohio law required physicians to use an outdated, less effective, more expensive protocol," she said in a statement. "When health care policy is shaped by science, not politics, women win. This report shows that the new FDA protocol allows women to access the health care they need and choose the abortion method that is best for them."

Ms. Miracle said Ohio's nine facilities were able to provide safe, legal and affordable abortions to more than 20,000 women in Ohio.

"Unfortunately, Governor John Kasich and his band of usual suspects have wasted the taxpayers' time and money in pushing illegal and immoral tactics designed to block access to abortion clinics," she said. "Since taking office, Governor Kasich has signed 18 restrictions limiting access to reproductive healthcare in Ohio. Everyone deserves access to safe, affordable reproductive health care, including abortion, in their communities and we will continue to fight to ensure this is the reality in Ohio."

Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants

People suffering from dementia can receive support in their homes, allowing them to stay out of nursing facilities and assisted living longer, the House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia was told this week.

Joe Russell, executive director of the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice, told the task force that providing care for people in their own homes and communities is a quality of life issue.

Family caregivers often face a stressful and constant task of looking after loved ones with Alzheimer's and dementia, he said. Providing scheduled respite services and other in-home services can ease the burden on family members without them having to turn to institutional facilities.

Mr. Russell said the Department of Aging has explored a shared living service under the PASSPORT Medicaid waiver, which would allow a live-in caregiver to provide support in the senior's home. He said his group supports the concept but was concerned about the proposed reimbursement rates.

He said the state could also look at programs to allow for 24-hour in-home care for people with limited family supports. That could include a waiver that allows for personal care, homemaking and companion services provided by a live-in provider supplemented by home care aides in shifts, and monitoring technology.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," he said in testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

The task force also heard from Susan Dickey, who works with the Greater Cincinnati Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She discussed practice recommendations as part of the association's Quality Care Campaign.

"In the long run, this system would most likely be less costly than institutional care as well as provide an environment that is familiar and stable for the individual to help them remain part of their community for as long as their health allows them to do so," she said in prepared testimony. "This arrangement would allow the individual to maintain their daily routines that are vital to their quality of life and overall health, as well as make it easier for interaction with family and friends in their community."

She said the recommendations could be used as a foundation for evaluating clinical outcomes for care in the state.

Medical Marijuana Updates: The Department of Commerce Friday released information from the applications for cultivator licenses. The business entity and contact information forms for the 185 applicants for those licenses are now available online.

The DOC anticipates awarding cultivator licenses in November.

Earlier this week, the DOC announced that two universities - Central State University and Hocking College - had applied for laboratory applications. The department said it would accept applications from private testing laboratories between Nov. 27 and Dec. 8.

Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health Grants...

Advocates in the fight against addiction gathered at the Statehouse Friday in the annual Rally for Recovery, emphasizing the importance of family and community members in supporting people battling substance use disorder.

The event hosted by Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery featured advocacy groups and providers offering information about social supports for people with addiction. Those who received awards included Gov. John Kasich, who was recognized with the Recovery Ally Award for his work promoting policy to fight drug addiction and expanding Medicaid.

Tracy Plouck, director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, said the rally was a way to demonstrate the importance of supporting people battling substance abuse.

"This is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about how many people around our state are actually living in recovery," she said in an interview. "They're in all neighborhoods, all communities, and recovery is possible. I think this is an opportunity to reduce stigma and show that it isn't just individuals who are living in recovery. It's families, it's neighbors, it's employers, everybody can come together and provide support."

Director Plouck said community supports are essential in helping people who start down the path to recovery stay there.

"Clinical services are increasingly available because of the Medicaid expansion and the changes that have occurred in the last few years, but the availability of different recovery supports is equally important, really," she said. "You can connect with sobriety, but you need supports in the community, you need to not feel isolated in order to sustain that recovery."

Speakers included Joe Smith, a father of three daughters who suffer from addiction, who said recovery takes more than one person.

"It takes the community to recover," he said. "Each one of us who recovers helps facilitate the recovery of others."

Behavioral Health Grants: ODMHAS announced \$6 million in grants this week for community mental health and addiction service providers. The funding was awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to certified providers who intended to initiate or expand workforce capacity through training, tuition reimbursement and loan repayment programs.

"Ohio, like the rest of the nation is experiencing challenges to recruit, retain and support, on a long term basis, our existing workforce in community behavioral health agencies," Director Plouck said in a statement. "These grants represent another step forward as we work collectively to build a highly-qualified workforce and significantly increase system capacity at a time when communities continue to face serious challenges with opioid addiction and mental illness."

The department sent award notices to 61 providers across the state, who were each eligible for one-time funding up to \$100,000.

Pharmacy Grant: The State Board of Pharmacy this week also announced it received a grant worth nearly \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of justice to fund a two-year pre-criminal intervention program to deal with prescription drug abuse.

The program will use data from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System to identify signs of prescription drug abuse and connect those people with drug treatment or other support services.

"The goal of the program is to prevent addicted individuals from entering the criminal justice system," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven Schierholt said. "By engaging early, we can direct individuals to treatment before they turn to illicit, and more potent, drugs such as heroin or fentanyl."

High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal Judgeship...

A trial court is under no obligation to wait until the statute of limitations expires to seal the records in a case dismissed without prejudice, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled.

The decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell resolves a conflict between the Fifth District Court of Appeals and the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

"Had the legislature intended for the applicable statute of limitations in a case dismissed without prejudice to expire before a trial court can seal a record under R.C. 2953.52(B)(4), it could have used the language it did in R.C. 2953.52(B)(3) regarding applications to seal records of DNA specimens. But it did not do so," he wrote.

The conflict was certified after James Dye of Pickerington had five misdemeanor charges against him dismissed without prejudice in the Fairfield County Municipal Court. He unsuccessfully sought to have the dismissal sealed by the trial court, a decision that was upheld by the Fifth District Court of Appeals, the high court reported.

Mr. Dye argued that both courts erred in determining that he was not eligible to have the records sealed because the statute of limitations had not expired.

The state, like Mr. Dye, argued that the statute is unambiguous. However, it said the language clearly makes him ineligible to have his record sealed until the statute of limitations expires.

Justice O'Donnell was joined in his opinion by five of his fellow members of the court, while Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor concurred in judgement only.

Union Case: The Buckeye Institute has joined a legal battle that could have major implications for public sector unions.

The group filed an amicus brief in the case of *Janus v. AFSCME*, which is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mark Janus, a child support specialist in Illinois, argues that being forced to pay agencies fees after opting out of his collective bargaining unit is a violation of his First Amendment rights.

"We are pleased that the Supreme Court will take up this crucial case to protect the First Amendment rights of public employees," President and CEO Robert Alt said. "Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree and forcing them to pay fees to a union in order to keep their jobs is unjust and unconstitutional. We are confident that Mr. Janus will prevail and that the court will rule in favor of the First Amendment rights of all public employees."

Federal Judgeship: President Donald Trump has nominated Ryan T. Holte to serve on the bench of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Mr. Holte currently serves as an associate professor of law and the director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Technology at the University of Akron School of Law.

He serves as general counsel, partner, and co-inventor of an electrical engineering technology company. He also worked as a trial attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, practiced law as an associate at Jones Day and clerked for a judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Federal Grant: An eight-state collaborative formed to combat the opioid crisis will receive a \$1 million federal grant to aid in its efforts, the high court announced Friday.

The Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative - comprised of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia - was awarded the grant by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"Our regional effort serves as a bridge connecting key leaders and staff from law enforcement, to courts, to treatment providers, to children services and other aid organizations," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "This grant will go a long way toward helping close the information, enforcement, services and treatment gaps that have allowed this epidemic to fester and grow."

Volunteers Honored: Fourteen individuals who lead tours at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center were honored for their service by all seven high court justices during a luncheon, according to the court.

"Your knowledge and enthusiasm are appreciated throughout the building by the staff and the justices," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "I want you to know that. Those of us who work here, and you by extension, as being a face with many of the students that come into this building, are extremely proud of the building and proud of what you do for us in showcasing the building and this institution."

Judicial Candidates: The Board of Professional Conduct announced its 2018 schedule of seminars for judicial candidates.

Disciplinary Hearings: The Board of Professional Conduct also announced disciplinary hearings scheduled for October.

Borges Issues Warning After OEC Ruling; Dems Pile On Over ECOT Overpayments; Renacci Cancels NFL Ad

An Elections Commission ruling could drastically alter the landscape of elections in Ohio, a former chairman of the Ohio Republican Party said Friday.

Matt Borges, who is now working for the Yes on Issue 2 campaign, said the panel's Thursday decision to dismiss two complaints against the opponents of a November ballot measure could open the door for political campaigns to use LLCs as pass-through entities to avoid financial disclosures.

Dismissed were complaints that the opposition PAC, Ohioans Against Issue 2, intentionally hid the source of its fundraising and violated state campaign finance disclosure laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

Both complaints filed by the Yes campaign centered on the idea that PhARMA, a trade association of the pharmaceutical industry, was used as a pass-through entity to conceal millions of dollars of contributions from the drug industry to the PAC.

"If they had to do some long-term damage to Ohio to get what they want, they had no problem with that," Mr. Borges said. "They have been trying to keep folks in the dark throughout this entire campaign."

But Dale Butland, a spokesman for the No campaign, said the letter of the law was followed.

"If Matt Borges and the Yes side believe that Ohio law should be changed, then they should go to the legislature and ask them to do that," he said.

Mr. Butland also said Mr. Borges complaint about the dismissal is emblematic of a campaign in a "death spiral."

"The reason that they are going to lose isn't because there hasn't been enough debates, it's not because our side is not following the law, it's because they have a lousy proposal that will do great damage to this state and its people," he said.

ECOT Overpayments: With the announcement Thursday that the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow will be docked an additional \$19 million for overpayments, one gubernatorial candidate is calling for the school to be "expelled."

Betty Sutton called the school's proposed change in status to a dropout and recovery institution a "sham."

"A failing school shouldn't be allowed to teach at-risk kids just so it can continue to rip off taxpayers. When a school lies and cheats they should be expelled. It's plain and simple. If they can't do basic math, they should not pretend to teach Ohio's kids," the Democrat said.

"It is beyond ridiculous that a sham school that leads Ohio in dropouts would be designated a dropout recovery school. We need to make Ohio the opportunity state by providing a good education for our children and that starts with expelling ECOT."

A Department of Education audit found that ECOT last year over-reported the number of full-time students it enrolls by 18.5% (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 28, 2017)

The online charter school has already been order to repay \$60 million from the 2015-16 school year.

Renacci Ad: Those watching the Cleveland Browns take on the Cincinnati Bengals this weekend will not be learning about U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci's gubernatorial campaign.

The Alliance Republican announced Friday that he has canceled a \$20,000 ad buy during the game in the wake of a growing number of NFL players using the National Anthem as a platform to protest what they believe is racial injustice.

"While the First Amendment clearly affords NFL players and officials the freedom to engage in this appalling behavior, having the right to do something does not mean it's the right thing to do. Throughout our nation's history, countless American men and women of all backgrounds and races have sacrificed deeply to protect and preserve the ideals that our nation and its flag stand for - and our National Anthem serves as a tribute to that sacrifice that we should honor, not disparage," he said.

"And while the right to speak and protest peacefully is a fundamental freedom that we as Americans enjoy, protesting the most sacred symbols of those freedoms is both sadly ironic and an inexcusable, offensive display of contempt for what our nation stands for."

Harbaugh Endorsement: Ken Harbaugh, who is seeking to oust U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-Lakeview), announced that the Communications Workers of America has endorsed his candidacy in the 7th Congressional District.

"I am honored to have this endorsement from CWA. Ohio workers are among the best in the world. We need to fight for fair trade agreements and give our hard-working men and women a level playing field on which to compete," the Democrat said. "Folks working full-time jobs can and should be able to support their families. CWA is fighting for these improvements and so am I."

Added CWA District 4 Vice President Linda Hinton: "Ken's education, military background, and the fact he has spent a life helping others, show the experience and character needed to make workers and working families a priority."

Agency Briefs: Ohio Minimum Wage Rising In 2018; OPSB; USDA; ODA

Ohio's minimum wage will rise to \$8.30 per hour next year, up about 2% alongside the rate of inflation, the Department of Commerce announced Friday.

The \$8.30 wage applies to non-tipped employees at businesses with gross annual receipts of more than \$305,000 per year. For tipped employees, the new minimum wage will be \$4.15 per hour.

The current minimum wage is \$8.15 for non-tipped employees and \$4.08 for tipped employees.

For people who work at companies with gross receipts below \$305,000, and for 14- and 15-year-olds, the minimum wage will be the federal rate of \$7.25 per hour.

The state increase stems from an increase of 1.9% in the consumer price index.

Public Utilities: The Power Siting Board will hold a hearing Dec. 5 to allow the public to voice views about a proposal by Vinton Solar Energy LLC to build a solar-powered electric generation facility in Vinton county.

The hearing will take place at 6 p.m. that day at the Vinton County Community Building in McArthur.

The proposed facility would include arrays of solar panels with a combined generating capacity of up to 125 megawatts. It would be located on 1,950 acres of leased land in Elk Township, and the facility would be connected to the grid through American Electric Power's nearby Elk substation.

The adjudicatory hearing in the case will be at 10 a.m. Dec. 15 at the PUCO offices in Columbus.

U.S. Department of Agriculture: The department will award a \$22,910 solid waste management grant to Mahoning County, U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) announced. The money will help fund the county's solid waste management district's rural recycling education and awareness program.

"I am pleased to announce this federal funding for Mahoning County," Rep. Ryan said in a statement.

"When it comes to preserving our environment for our kids, like many other issues, change starts at home. I am encouraged to see state and local governments like Mahoning County continuing to lead the charge on sustainability education. This funding will give rural Mahoning County an important boost, and represents a crucial federal investment. As long as I am in Congress, I will continue to fight to bring these important funds back to Northeast Ohio."

Agriculture: Gov. John Kasich on Friday signed an executive order creating an emergency rule on inflatable amusement ride safety inspections related to a change in the biennial budget bill.

The measure (HB 49) eliminated the statutory inspection fee for rides and granted authority to the Department of Agriculture director to develop rules for the fee structure.

The emergency rule announced in the EO will fill the gap until ODO develops the final rules for the inspections.

Governor's Appointments

State Dental Board: Theodore T. Bauer, DDS of Columbus for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending April 6, 2021.

Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board: Jaime L. Darr, DDS of Massillon for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending January 28, 2019.

Ohio Expositions Commission: John R. Page of Lewis Center for a term beginning September 29, 2017, and ending December 1, 2020.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2017-032. Requested by Williams County Prosecuting Attorney Katherine J. Zartman. SYLLABUS:

A person may not serve simultaneously as prosecuting attorney of Williams County and member of a joint-county board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services of a joint-county alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service district of which Williams County is a part.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, October 2

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, October 3

BRAC & Military Affairs Task Force, Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, 7370 Minuteman Way, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Board of Building Appeals, Ohio Department of Transportation, District Three Office, Conference Room, 906 Clark Avenue, Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Real Estate Commission, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Thursday, October 5

Power Siting Board, 180 E. Broad St., Room 11B, Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 6

Board of Building Standards, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, October 3

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 10/2/2017

Monday, October 2

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 3

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of William Sanderson, Ohio Housing Finance Agency

HB 52 **DEED SOLICITATION** (Rezabek, J.) To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 120 **DEBT ADJUSTING** (Eklund, J.) Regarding debt adjusting (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

SB 121 **MAMMOGRAM COVERAGE** (Eklund, J.) To include tomosynthesis as part of required screening mammography benefits under health insurance policies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 169 **TRAVEL INSURANCE** (Wilson, S.) To oversee the sale of travel insurance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 199 **MORTGAGE LENDING** (Blessing, L.) To create the Ohio Residential Mortgage Lending Act for the purpose of regulating all non-depository lending secured by residential real estate and to limit the application of the current Mortgage Loan Law to unsecured loans and loans secured by other than residential real estate. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

SB 195 **DOGS LAW** (Beagle, B.) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 196 **BULLYING** (Williams, S.) To create the offense of aggravated bullying, a third-degree misdemeanor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 130 **FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT** (Tavares, C.) To add two judges to the Domestic Relations Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2018. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 150 **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** (Brown, E.) To prohibit a person convicted of domestic violence or assault of a family member, or a person subject to certain protection orders, from having a firearm; to establish a procedure for surrendering all firearms in the person's possession; and to name the act the "Domestic Violence Survivors Protection Act." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 138 **INMATE SEARCHES (Eklund, J.)** To authorize a corrections officer to cause a body cavity search to be conducted, to establish separate rules and restrictions for conducting strip searches, and to limit the right of any person to commence a civil action for a violation of the law governing body cavity searches and strip searches to violations related to body cavity searches. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SCR 6 **EXTRADITION (O'Brien, S.)** To urge the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, and the Congress of the United States to compel Brazil to extradite Claudia Hoerig to stand trial for the aggravated murder of her husband, Major Karl Hoerig, and to request that the United States terminate foreign aid payments to Brazil if Claudia Hoerig is not extradited. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SCR 10 **GAULT DECISION (Thomas, C.)** To recognize 2017 as the fiftieth anniversary of In re Gault. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 171 **PROTECTION ORDERS (Hottinger, J.)** To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 122, 2:30 p.m.

- Presentation from Dr. Robert Applebaum of the Scripps Gerontology Center: "Policy Does Matter: Continued Progress in Providing Long Term Services and Supports for Ohio's Older Population"

HB 286 **PALLIATIVE CARE (LaTourette, S.)** To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

House Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624), Rm. 116, 3 p.m.

HB 239 **SECURITY RESOURCES (Smith, R., Carfagna, R.)** To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) (Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Joshua Cox, Benjamin Fields and Megan Marchal, State Board of Pharmacy; Michael Gonidakis, State Medical Board and Robert Schuerger, II, Ohio Athletic Commission

HB 145 **CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.)** To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 143 **DAY DESIGNATION (Eklund, J.)** To designate September 25 as 'International Ataxia Awareness Day' in Ohio. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 111 **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.)** To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Wednesday, October 4

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 118 **PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS (Merrin, D.)** To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 186 **BUSINESS INCOME (Peterson, B.)** To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & Interested party)

HB 69 **TIF DISTRICTS (Cupp, R.)** To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10 a.m.

- Presentations on autonomous and connected vehicles from Jonathan Weinberger, VP of Innovation and Technology for the Auto Alliance and Josh Fisher, manager state government affairs for Global Automakers

Tuesday, October 10

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

- If needed
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.
- If needed
Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

- If needed

Wednesday, October 11


Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 12

Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, September 30-Monday, October 2

Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 12

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, October 2

Banking Commission, 77 South High Street, Room East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Speaker's Task Force on Heroin, Opioids, Prevention, Education, and Safety, MetroHealth, Scott Auditorium, Cleveland, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)

Lobbyist and Employer Activity & Expenditure Reports for the May-August 2017 reporting period are due

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

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From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 7:33 AM
Subject: E-Clips for 10/24/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

10/24/2017



RISE IN VIOLENT CRIME CASES CAUSES NEED TO FIND JAIL SPACE

A jump in federal cases involving violent crimes and drug cases being prosecuted in Ohio has officials looking for more jail space.

OHIO COURT WON'T HEAR CASE IN SEIZURE OF EXOTIC ANIMALS

Another court has dealt a blow to an Ohio man who is trying to get his six tigers and several other exotic animals back from the state.

CORONER IDS SUSPECT KILLED AFTER FATAL SHOOTING POLICEMAN

A coroner has identified the Ohio man suspected of killing a policeman before he was fatally shot by another officer responding to a domestic disturbance at a home.



OHIO STATE COULD LEARN FROM FLORIDA'S SECURITY FOR RICHARD SPENCER'S SPEECH

If Ohio State University is ordered by a judge to host Richard Spencer, it might consider how a Florida university handled the white nationalist's visit on Thursday.

COURT SEEKS COMMENT ON RELEASING GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPTS IN POLICE SHOOTINGS

A proposed change in Ohio court rules to allow now-secret grand jury transcripts to be released to the public — targeted at cases in which police officers are not indicted in fatal shootings of suspects — has reached a new phase.

GOVERNOR CANDIDATES, DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS AGREE TO 2 DEBATES AFTER SPARRING

After disagreeing with party officials, Ohio's four Democratic candidates for governor apparently have agreed to a pair of debates in Columbus on Sunday.

DOES COLLEGE LEAD STUDENTS AWAY FROM RELIGION?

When it comes to religion, higher education has a bad reputation among some people.

EDITORIAL: TAX REFORM THREATENS HISTORIC BUILDINGS

As the GOP undertakes comprehensive tax reform, it should restore the Federal Historic Tax Credit, a program that preserves America's irreplaceable historic buildings, generates jobs and more than pays for itself.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

HOUSE DEFENSE LEADER AT WRIGHT PATT. SAYS AF PILOT SHORTAGE GROWING

The Air Force has been "hemorrhaging" pilots in a growing shortage that shows the impact sequestration has had on the military, a top congressional defense leader said.

CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKS NEW TAX TO SUPPORT MUSEUM

The Clark County Historical Society will ask voters to approve a new property tax on Nov. 7 that the group says will preserve and showcase local artifacts for residents and visitors.

TIPP CITY SCHOOLS NOW PART OF OHIO ONLINE CHECKBOOK

The Tipp City Exempted Village Schools now are part of the Ohio Online Checkbook offering financial information on government entities across the state who choose to participate.

THE PLAIN DEALER

DO YOU WANT TO LOSE THIS TAX DEDUCTION? WILL YOUR CONGRESSMAN OR CONGRESSWOMAN FIGHT IT?

The Senate paved the way for tax reform with a tax-cutting budget late last week, and Americans could see the actual tax-reform bill soon -- a chance to know what's in and out.

SEN. SHERROD BROWN CALLS WHITE HOUSE AIDE, ADVISER 'WHITE SUPREMACISTS,' WHITE HOUSE SAYS THAT'S SLANDEROUS

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio called presidential adviser Steve Bannon a white supremacist and said Stephen Miller, a senior policy adviser to President Donald Trump, "seems to be" one, too.

PRISONS ARE IMPORTANT PIECES IN OHIO GERRYMANDERING: OUT OF LINE - IMPACT 2017 AND BEYOND

Ohio's clever gerrymandering - the act of drawing congressional district lines for political gain - goes beyond chasing like-minded voters.

EDITORIAL: HEY, CLEVELAND MAYOR FRANK JACKSON AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE ARMOND BUDISH, TELL US WHAT YOU OFFERED AMAZON!

The man who leads Amazon.com also owns The Washington Post, where the motto this year is "Democracy dies in darkness," so we find it astounding that Northeast Ohio's elected leaders have shrouded the region's bid for Amazon's second headquarters in darkness.

THE ENQUIRER

CINCINNATI AREA COLLEGE PRESIDENTS ASK CONGRESS TO PROTECT DREAMERS

Several local university presidents have signed a letter asking Congress to permanently protect students known as Dreamers. Those students' legal immigrant status was put in jeopardy when President Trump rescinded the Obama Administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy in September.

SHERROD BROWN: I WON'T APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING TRUMP ADVISERS RACIST

The White House blasted Sen. Sherrod Brown over his comments Sunday that a top adviser to President Trump "seems to be" a white supremacist and other staffers are sympathetic to such hate groups.

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LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS TRYING TO REDUCE CANCER RISKS

As cancer awareness increases, departments have sought grants for latest equipment and have emphasized safe practices to reduce hazards.

THE BLADE

STATEWIDE DATABASE OF VIOLENT OFFENDERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

A statewide database of violent offenders proposed in the wake of last year's murder of Sierah Joughin in Fulton County would be strictly for law enforcement eyes under revisions made recently by Ohio lawmakers.

ROSSFORD APPROVES MEDICAL MARIJUANA MORATORIUM

The sale and cultivation of medical marijuana could be legalized in Rossford after a moratorium expires.

TOLEDO COUNCILMAN SYKES PLEADS NOT GUILTY ON ASSAULT CHARGES

A Toledo city councilman and candidate for re-election in next month's general election appeared Monday before a Toledo Municipal Court judge and pleaded not guilty to assault.

TOLEDO'S HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM SEASON COMES TO END

Toledo officially ended the 2017 harmful algal bloom season Monday after nine consecutive days with cooler temperatures and no microcystin detected in raw lake water at the city's intake crib.

EDITORIAL: WE CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH FOR DRUG FIGHT

In the fight against the raging opioid epidemic in Ohio, every professional on the front lines will say he is underarmed.

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2017 10:14 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [House Releases Documents on Harassment Complaints against Three Lawmakers](#)
- [Kasich Praises Unions, Says 'Right to Work' Non-Issue](#)
- [House Sees Lengthy Floor Debate over Latest Abortion Bill, Anti-Fraud SNAP Legislation](#)
- [Redistricting Panel Hears Further Testimony Bashing Gerrymandering](#)
- [Bill Barring Workers' Compensation to Illegal Aliens Gets First Hearing](#)
- [Automakers Talk Rollout Timelines, Policy Needs in Driverless Car Hearing](#)
- [House Committee Discusses Merits of Piping Materials Bill](#)
- [Statehouse Rally Urges Action on Legislation to Reform Payday Loans in Ohio](#)
- [New Ohio State Policy Center to Study 'War on Drugs'](#)
- [Ohio Earns Solid 'C' in New Report on Pre-Trial Justice](#)
- [Ohio Attorney General Opinion Request](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Opinions; Appeals Accepted](#)
- [Executive Actions: Appointments](#)

House Committee Reports

- [Aging and Long Term Care](#)
- [Community and Family Advancement](#)
- [Criminal Justice](#)
- [Federalism and Interstate Relations](#)
- [Government Accountability and Oversight](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Higher Education and Workforce Development](#)
- [Insurance](#)
- [State and Local Government](#)
- [Transportation and Public Safety](#)

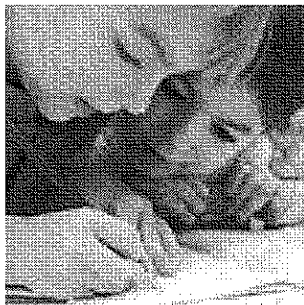
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Hannah News Service, Inc. | 21 W. Broad Street, Suite 1000, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614.227.5820 | www.hannah.com

From: NCSL LegisBriefs
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: Blockchain technology, data breaches, 2020 Census and more

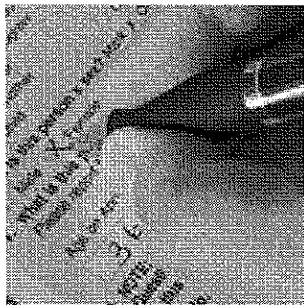
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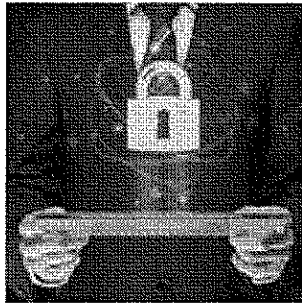
BOOSTING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

Social and emotional learning (SEL) has become more widely embraced as part of a well-rounded education over the past 20 years, leading to increased discussions among state lawmakers about whether and how to incorporate SEL into school and after-school curriculum.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2020 CENSUS

With the next decennial census quickly approaching, state lawmakers are beginning to consider how to help make sure their citizens are counted accurately because, while the census is a federal responsibility, states benefit in a variety of ways. And with costs mounting, NCSL and other groups are calling for sufficient funds to conduct a thorough census.



TAKING AIM AT DATA BREACHES AND CYBERATTACKS

Forty-eight states, Washington, D.C., and the territories now have laws requiring that security breaches be disclosed to consumers. Many state lawmakers, however, are increasing efforts to protect citizens by expanding breach notification laws, requiring adequate security measures, centralizing cybersecurity oversight in government, and expanding computer crime laws and penalties.



BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY: AN EMERGING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUE

Blockchain is a distributed ledger database that records and shares every transaction that occurs in the network of users, allowing digital currencies to be created, traded and tracked. Given its potential as a game-changer in how financial and other transactions are conducted, some states are passing laws to study, validate and use this emerging technology.

[Read More](#)



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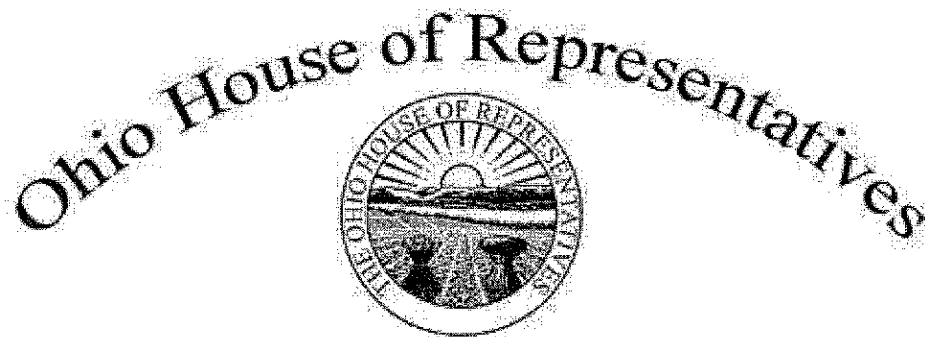
Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400

[Unsubscribe](#) from these messages.

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

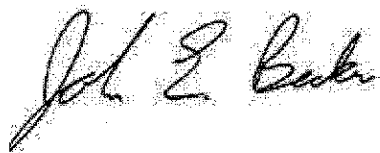
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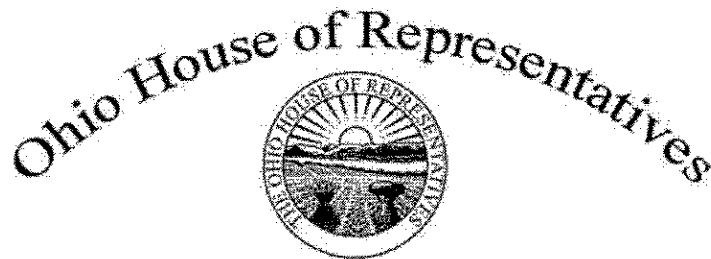
These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

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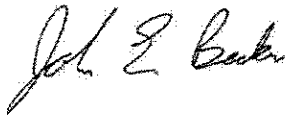
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John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: FW: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Alex,

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<http://plunderbund.com/2017/12/18/six-ways-to-screw-over-ohio-workers-john-beckers-christmas-wish-list/>

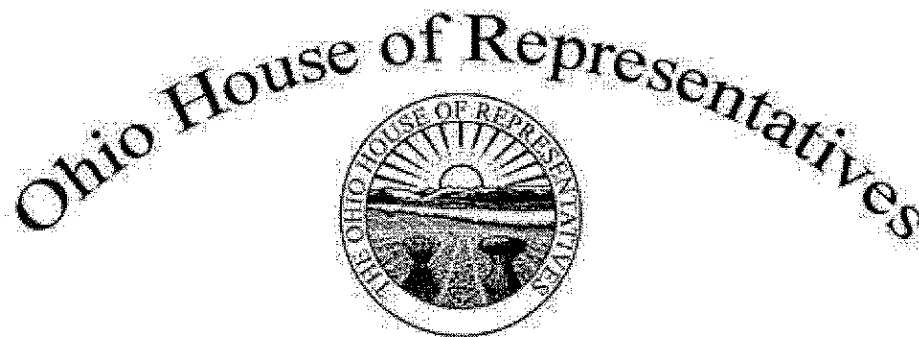
I will send you the press release as soon as it becomes available. Thanks!

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments



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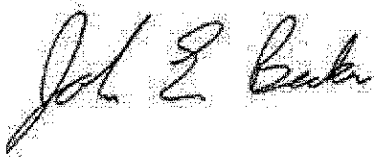
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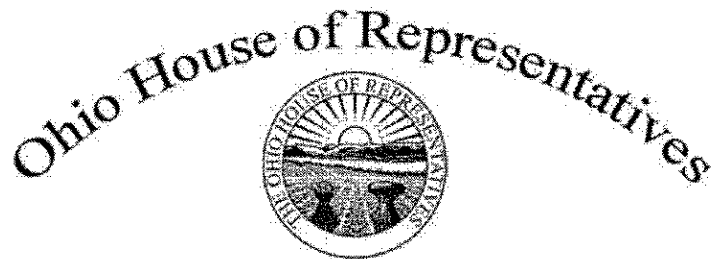
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State Representative
65th House District



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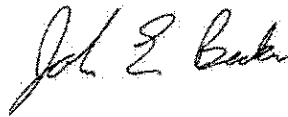
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John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 11:56 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra
CC: JBecker (John@BeckerGOP.com)
Subject: FW: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Press Release at Co-sponsor- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.docx

Alex,

Rep. Becker would like to send the attached press release to local and statewide media, which follows the co-sponsor request forwarded below sent on Friday. Thank you!

Joe Michalowski

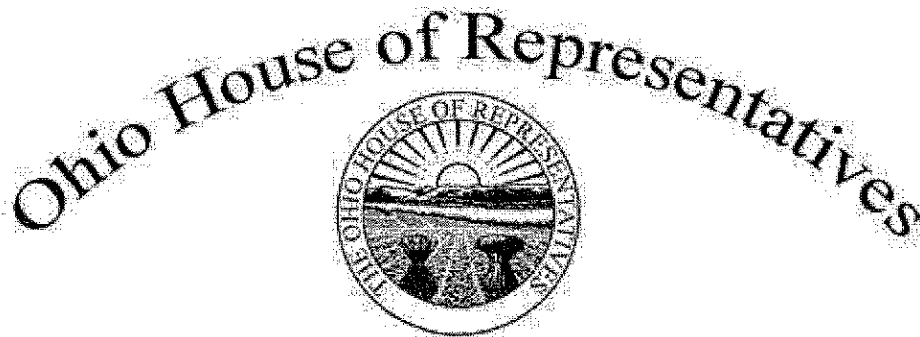
Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker

Date: Friday, December 15, 2017

RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

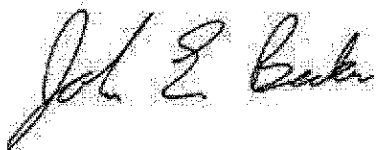
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Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

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John Becker
State Representative
65th House District



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 18, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

State Representative John Becker Announces Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

COLUMBUS—State Representative John Becker (R-Union Township) today announced six Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments as follows:

- **Private-sector Right-to-Work** – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
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With these proposals, Becker asks Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. "Now that 28 states- and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states- have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future," Becker continued.

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:06 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: RE: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

Thanks, Joe! Just sent it to everyone to make sure there aren't edits required, then we can get this distributed.

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: FW: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

Alex,

Rep. Becker is already receiving negative media about a co-sponsor request we sent on Friday to GOP Members only. Here is the link to the story:
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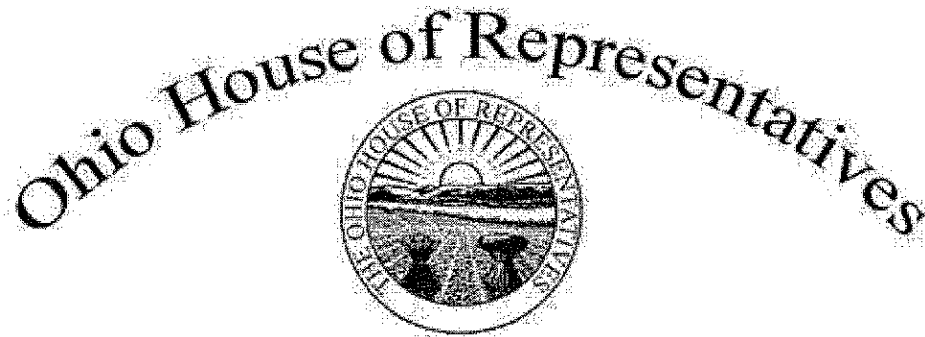
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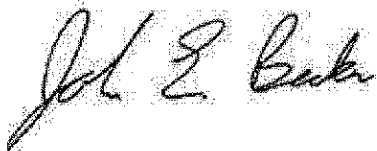
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John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:05 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Miller, Brad; Slack, Cora
CC: Michalowski, Joe; Lenzo, Mike; Lundregan, Scott
Subject: ALERT: Becker Right-to-Work (Sending @ 1)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 18, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

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- **Private-sector Right-to-Work** – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
- **Public-sector Right-to-Work** – This legislation is about freedom of association. The same as the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- **Public-sector Prevailing Wage** – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- **Public-sector Paycheck Protection** – This amendment prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
- **Public-sector Project Labor Agreements** – This legislation is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from minimizing competition for

construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.

- Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This amendment will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

With these proposals, Becker asks Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on individually.

"Now that 28 states, and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states, have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future."

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:09 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Here's the link to the article he sent me as well as the co-sponsor request.

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: FW: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

Alex,

Rep. Becker is already receiving negative media about a co-sponsor request we sent on Friday to GOP Members only. Here is the link to the story:
<http://plunderbund.com/2017/12/18/six-ways-to-screw-over-ohio-workers-john-beckers-christmas-wish-list/>

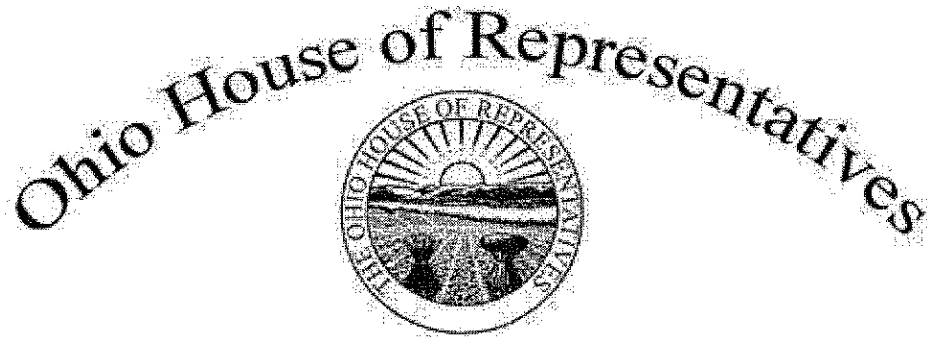
I will send you the press release as soon as it becomes available. Thanks!

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that

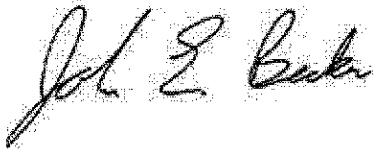
minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.

6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

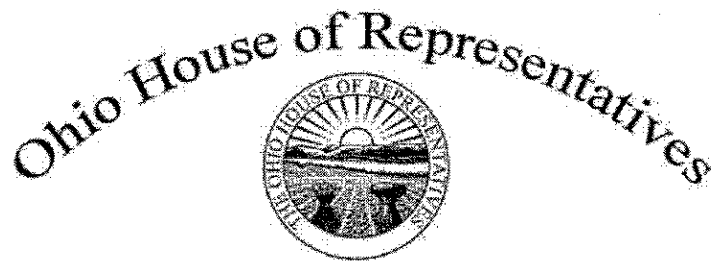
These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

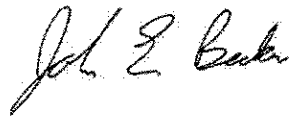
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have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John E. Becker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "B".

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 6:30 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, December 18, 2017

Monday, December 18, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Kasich Seeks to Give Last 'State of State' in Westerville on March 6](#)
- [Kasich Names Laubert Acting Director of ODA](#)
- [Senate Plans to Address Voting Machine Funding, Obhof Says](#)
- [Controlling Board Approves Combined DYS/DRC Office Lease](#)
- [IG Chides DAS for IT Procurement Practices](#)
- [Becker Proposes Six Right to Work Constitutional Amendments](#)
- [ODH Elevates Flu Level to 'Widespread'](#)
- [Turnpike Commission Approves Budgets, Toll Modernization Plans](#)
- [OSU Toy Adaptation Program Helps Fix Toys for Children with Special Needs](#)
- [By the Numbers: Legislative Activity in 2017](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ODNR](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Jolivette; Endorsements](#)
- [Ohio Digest: U.S. HHS](#)
- [Ohio Attorney General Opinion Request](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Parades; Opinion](#)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:39 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 12/20/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS 12/20/2017

The Columbus Dispatch
Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

REPORT SUGGESTS STATE AGENCY ALREADY HAS VIOLATED NEW CONTRACTING POLICY

After The Dispatch revealed the Ohio Department of Administrative Services awarded \$15 million in unbid contracts to favored information-technology consultants, the agency promised to clean up its act.

NEW WHALEY AD PRAISES WORK, PROMISES JOBS

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley has released a new internet ad touting the dignity of work as she seeks the Democratic nomination for governor.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

LEHNER'S BILL AIMS TO CHANGE OHIO TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM

The Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) could see significant changes if a bill recently introduced by State Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) becomes law.

STATE SENATOR TO RUN FOR MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSION

State Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) today declared his candidacy for a seat on the Miami County Commission.

THE ENQUIRER

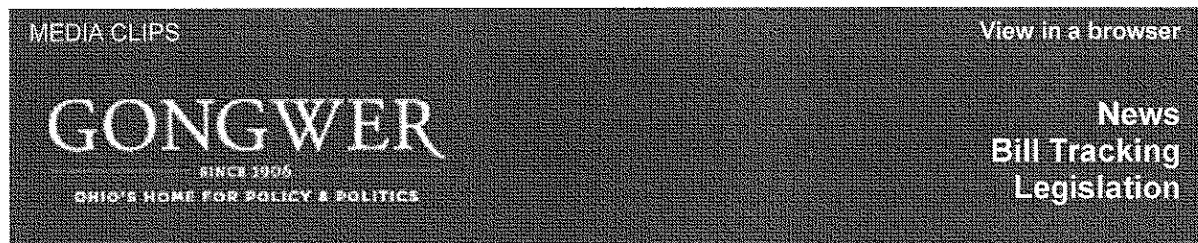
'RIGHT TO WORK' IN OHIO? GOP LAWMAKER WANTS VOTERS TO CHOOSE

Undeterred by the acrimonious fight over Senate Bill 5, GOP Rep. John Becker wants voters to choose whether Ohio should become a right-to-work state.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:42 AM
To: DL_Gongwer
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, December 20

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NEWS

////////////////////////////////////
Federal judge dismisses legal effort to stop gas pipeline (Associated Press, 12/20/2017)

Ohio attorney general not joining legal fight over net neutrality (Associated Press, 12/20/2017)

'Right to work' in Ohio? Becker wants voters to choose (Cincinnati Enquirer, 12/20/2017)

Your tax bill savings might not be as big as advertised. The economic development benefits might not be, either (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 12/20/2017)

New Whaley ad praises work, promises jobs (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Report suggests state agency already has violated new contracting policy (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Stivers announces net neutrality bill (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Tax revision almost law; one more vote left (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Lehner's bill aims to change Ohio teacher evaluation system (Dayton Daily News, 12/20/2017)

Report: Ohio cities facing fiscal stress despite improving economy (Dayton Daily News, 12/20/2017)

Senate passes GOP tax bill; House to revote Wednesday (Dayton Daily News, 12/20/2017)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: 2012 effort a dog of a law (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Editorial: Truth and news under assault (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

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From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe
CC: Basie, Margaret
Subject: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Becker & Riedel Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Importance: High

Representative Craig S. Riedel

has signed on to all six of these constitutional amendments as a joint sponsor with Rep. Becker.

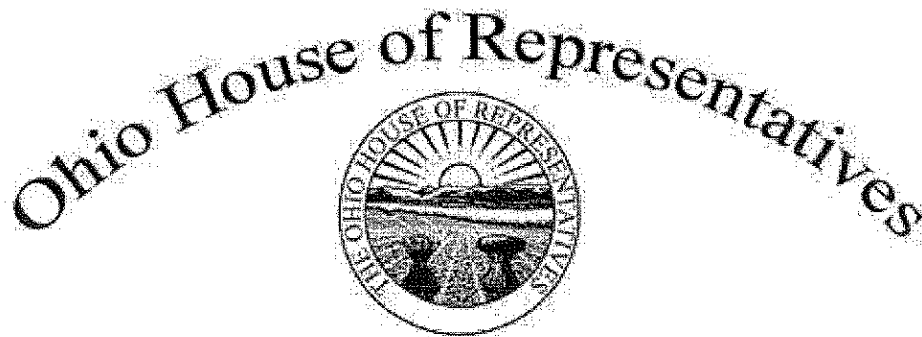
Each of the six amendments would appear on Ohio's general election ballot on November 3, 2020.

The current co-sponsors of all six are: Rep. Thompson, Rep. Brinkman, Rep. Dean, Rep. Keller, Rep. Roegner, and Rep. Zeltwanger. Rep. Lang is a co-sponsor on the following constitutional amendments: private-sector right-to-work (amendment #1); public-sector prevailing wage (amendment #3); and public-

sector project labor agreements (amendment #5).

Rep. Vitale is a co-sponsor on public-sector right-to-work (amendment #2).

Revised deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY at 5:00 PM. Please note which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor.



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel
Ohio's 82nd House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017
RE: REVISED: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

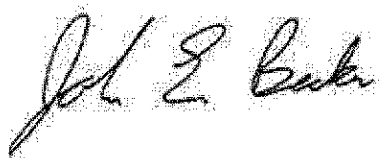
The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
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6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio’s neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation’s future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio’s future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY- Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

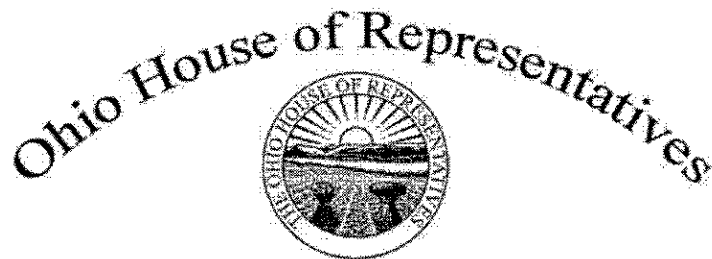
Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

Handwritten signature of John E. Becker in cursive script.

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

Handwritten signature of Craig S. Riedel in cursive script.

Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel
Ohio's 82nd House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017
RE: REVISED Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

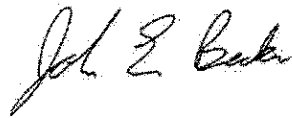
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Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

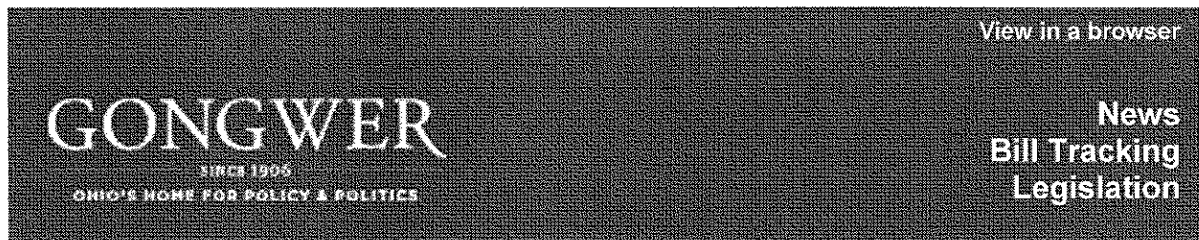


Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District

From: gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service
[gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 12:00 PM
To: Standard_Subscriber_misc_html@gongwer-oh.com
Subject: House & Senate Floor Reports

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HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

HJR 7

UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 8**UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 9**PREVAILING WAGE (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 43 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement to pay the contractor's workers the prevailing rate of wages for work performed on the public improvement.

HJR 10**PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 2 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts.

HJR 11**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.

HJR 12**UNION DUES (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization

from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.

HB 454

CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.)

To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.

SENATE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

SB 246

STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.)

To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation.

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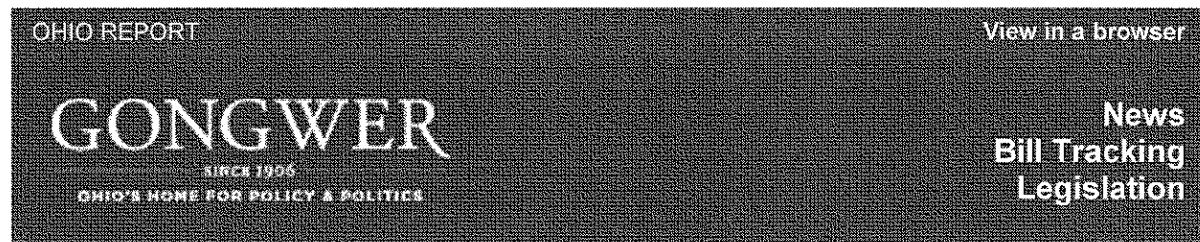
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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 6:04 PM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: Ohio Report, Thursday, December 21, 2017
Attachments: Dec21House.htm; Dec21Senate.htm; 171221dayplan.htm; Dec21.htm

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OHIO REPORT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Speaker Tasks Universities With Engaging High Schoolers Impacted By Opiate Epidemic

Right-To-Work, Prevailing Wage Proposals Unveiled In House

Children Services Agencies See Growing Burden From Drug Crisis; Overdose Deaths Tallied

House Republican Announces Plan To Crack Down Drug Dealers

'Significant Update' On Belmont County Ethane Cracker Slated For 2018

Federal Judge Dismisses Property Owners' Lawsuit Against Nexus Pipeline

Groups Highlight Economic Impacts Of 'Dreamers' In Push To Restore DACA

High Court Green Lights Tax Board To Take Up \$500K NASCAR Appeal

Poll Finds Democrats With Big Lead In Generic Congressional Ballots; Bacon Touts Fundraising; Scott Officially Enters District 12 Race...

ACTIVITY REPORTS

House

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner

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House Activity for Thursday, December 21, 2017

INTRODUCED

HJR 7 ■ **UNION MEMBERSHIP** (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.
Gongwer Coverage

HJR 8 ■ **UNION MEMBERSHIP** (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.
Gongwer Coverage


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Gongwer Coverage

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Gongwer Coverage

HJR 12 

UNION DUES (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.
Gongwer Coverage

HB 454 

CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. Am. 517.073

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Senate Activity for Thursday, December 21, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB 246

STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. Am. 3302.03, 3313.534, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.668, and 3319.46 and to enact section 3319.237

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

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Daily Activity Planner for Friday, December 22

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

No events scheduled.

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